

# Cake or pie: which treat deserves your fork and respect?

Making this decision is a slice; pie is the only treat you'll ever need

It's a piece of cake to bake a pretty cake, and oh, how sweet it is



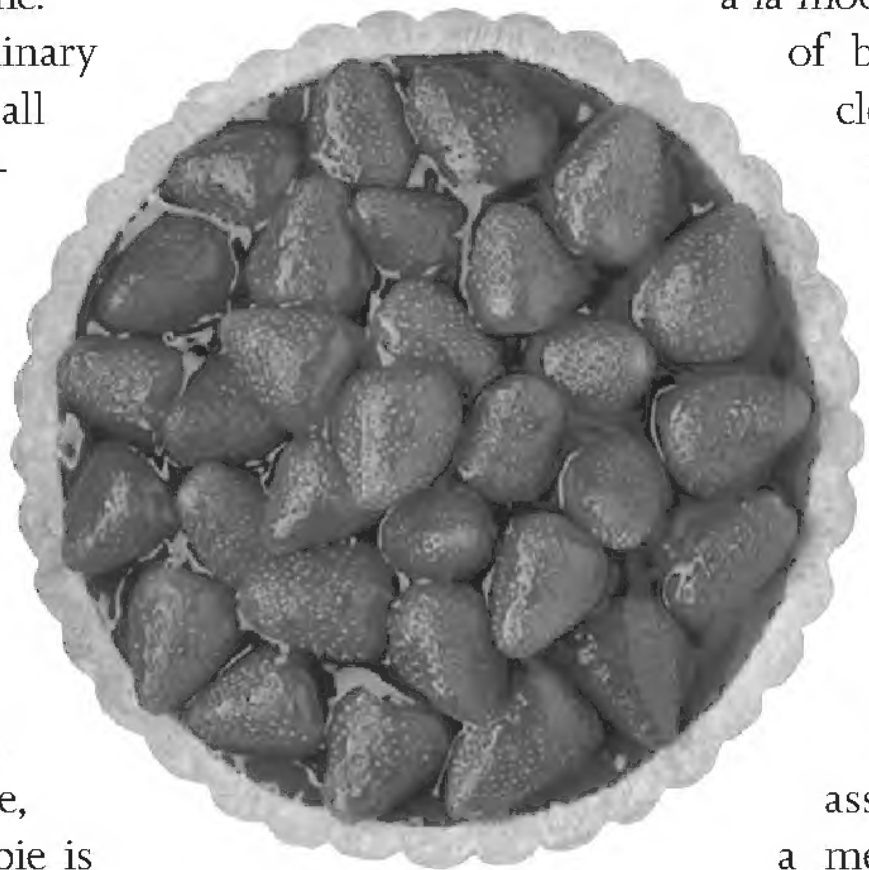
PAUL BLINOV

pie

Cake and pie share a number of similarities: both are round, both are usually served as desserts, and, for the most part, both are delicious. But put head-to-head, stat-to-stat, cake melts into a puddle in the face of the greatest post-dinner culinary discovery of all time. It's not cake's fault, for it simply can't compare—the life of pie is a blessed one.

First of all, pie is a culinary jack of all trades, spanning all shapes, sizes, and even disciplines—fruit, cream, meringue, meat, shepherd's, and yes, even mathematics. Cake, on the other hand, spans only the dessert world, and has little variation within (cheesecake, ice-cream cake, cake cake). If you want to eat the same three basic types of cake, Conal, be my guest. But pie is about having choice.

In the early days of dessert, pie separated the men from the boys. Pie-eating contests weren't just bemusing fat-guy spectacles at so many county fairs; these tests of gluttonous might were the deciding factor in whether or not Margaret-Ann would totally make out with you when the ferris wheel stopped and you two were at the top. Pie is about more than food—it's about *romance*.



And where was cake during all of this? Being saved for birthdays—reminders of death's skeletal fingers slowly tightening around your neck with glee—and weddings, which, ten years and a few kids later, amount to ulcer-forming worryfests about how it's 10pm and little Jimmy was supposed to be back 15 minutes ago. He's probably having a slice of pie—lazy summer days are slow rides, and he's taking it easy. Pie is for the *young*; pie is for the free.

Of course, there's an argument to be made for the ice-cream cake—even I can't deny the delicious content in every bite of Dairy Queen's finest gift to the world. But pie has a one-upper to such temptation: it's called

*à la mode*, and it gives you the best of both worlds, with far less cleanup than an entire melty, messy cake. Pie is flexible, but cake is like your asshole boss who comes in to yell at you, spills his coffee, then shouts at you to clean it up.

And what if you need something small and compact? While cupcakes—the shrivelled bastard sons of a half-assed dessert—will just make a mess in your pocket, tarts are tiny, discreet, and often come with a delicious pastry shield on top for transit.

You know what I did on Remembrance Day? I ate an entire pie. This was a salute to the fallen and those that came before, and to those who died fighting for a free, delicious world. They fought for the little things, like having my pie and eating it too. And so I did. It was apple, and it was delicious.



CONAL PIERSE

counterpie

Sure, pie is delicious, but to say that it's superior to cake is as laughable as claiming that Aquaman could take Superman in a fight. Unlike pie, cake is always a treat—you don't ever get excited about having cheesecake only to find out that it's really just cheddar and broccoli shoddily disguised as a pastry. That is a trap, my friend—a horrible, detestable trap.

Sure, you can fill a pie with damn near anything you want, but the same argument could be made for a shoe, and I'll be damned before I eat a Reebok full of grapes. Besides, unlike the versatile cake, pie is ultimately limited. You can only make a pie so large before it turns into a soggy, goopy mess; a cake, on the other hand, can be as large and creative as you want.

They have the potential to be true works of art, whereas pies sit alone on the windowsill, hoping that some knave is desperate enough to steal them. Whether it's a statue of yourself or a recreation of Gettysburg, if you can dream it, someone's grandma can bake it. Pies, meanwhile, are best suited to revenge plots involving four-and-20 blackbirds.

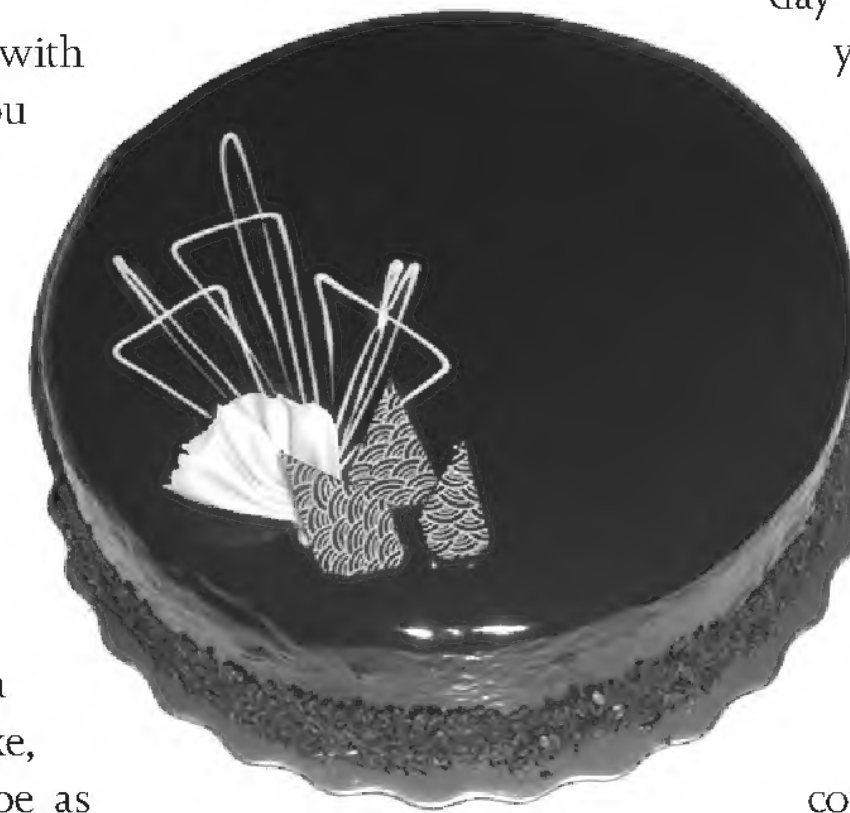
If you want, you can always add ice cream to

pie and give it a pretentious French name, but with ice-cream cake you don't have to pay extra to get the frozen treat that you deserve. Cake gives you what you want, when you want it and doesn't judge you—unlike those stuck-up pie charts that give a systematic breakdown of why you're a terrible son.

Pies also suffer from being a communist dessert—every slice is uniform—and while this is all well and good for the downtrodden proletariat, it gives you nothing to strive for. With a cake, the corner piece is a symbol of your social dominance, while getting the first piece of pie is unfulfilling—which is probably why you were able to sit and eat an entire one to yourself on Remembrance Day.

There's also a reason that nobody has birthday pie, and that's because if you only get one day each year to truly celebrate your existence, you don't want to waste it on plain old pie—not to mention the fact that a pie with candles in it looks about as appetizing as a piece of cardboard with jam smeared on it. And if you're ever at a wedding that serves pie instead of cake, you better go grab your stainless-steel toaster oven back, because that couple isn't lasting more than five months—and besides, they'd probably only use it to prepare their daily breakfast of Pop-Tarts and gin.

So go ahead, have your pie, and continue ignoring the delicious, cake-filled world around you like a diabetic in a bakery. But if you decide to leave your dark, shell-covered hovel and join the rest of us in the sun, you'll see that getting a delicious treat is a piece of cake indeed.



## STUDENT AWARDS

### SANDY MACTAGGART AWARD

The Sandy Mactaggart Award was created to honor Sandy A Mactaggart for his many contributions to the University of Alberta.

This award provides an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to receive up to \$25,000 to study in the Orient for one year as part of a University of Alberta degree.

Application forms are available on the Student Awards website at [www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards](http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards).

Deadline for receipt of applications in the Students Awards Office is 01 March 2008.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA SCHOLARSHIPS, PLEASE VISIT [www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards](http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards)



### REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR THE DEAN OF THE CAMPUS SAINT-JEAN

Dr. Marc Arnal's first term as Dean of the Campus Saint-Jean will end on June 30, 2008, and he has indicated that he intends to seek a second term in office. Therefore, a Review Committee has been established in accordance with University regulations.

At this point in its deliberations, the Review Committee is interested in your opinions about the state of the Campus Saint-Jean under the leadership of the current Dean. The Committee believes it is critical that all faculty, staff and students in Campus Saint-Jean and other members of the community have the opportunity to convey their views to the Committee. All input must be signed; however, members of the community may ask the Provost to have their input circulated to the committee without attribution.

Specifically, the Committee is interested in the following:

- 1) **Leadership** – ability to provide a vision and direction for the Campus Saint-Jean and achieve the strategic goals of the Campus;
- 2) **Management** – fairness, balance and effectiveness in decision-making affecting the direction of the Campus Saint-Jean; effectiveness in setting priorities and dealing with issues;
- 3) **Personnel Management** – issues dealing with the recruitment and retention of staff, as well as the administration of all personnel within the Campus Saint-Jean;
- 4) **Contributions** – the contributions of the Dean within the Campus Saint-Jean, the University, the Community (including alumni), and Professional Fields;
- 5) **Development** – the success of the Campus in achieving its goals with resources available and the effectiveness of the Dean in seeking outside funding through fund development and advancement activities;
- 6) **Communications** – the effectiveness of both internal and external communications;
- 7) **Other matters.**

If you wish to respond to the above issues, would you please forward your comments/advice no later than **Thursday, March 13, 2008**, to my attention at the address below:

**Carl G Amrhein**  
Provost and Vice-President (Academic) & Chair, Dean Review Committee  
2-10 University Hall  
Edmonton AB T6G 2J9 OR  
E-Mail: [provost@ualberta.ca](mailto:provost@ualberta.ca)

In addition, an open 'Public Forum' will be held on Thursday, March 27, 2008, from 12:00 to 1:00 pm, in Room 108, Pavillon McMahon, at Campus Saint-Jean. At the Forum, the Dean will discuss his vision of the Campus Saint-Jean for the next five years.

Your views are important to us and I encourage you to share your thoughts with the committee. Should you prefer to submit your comments to another member of the Committee, please feel free to do so. Please contact any member of the Dean Review Committee or myself for additional information.

Thank you for your assistance.

**Carl G Amrhein**  
Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, Dean Review Committee

#### Dean Review Committee Contact Information:

Carl Amrhein, Chair	492-3920	<a href="mailto:provost@ualberta.ca">provost@ualberta.ca</a>
Bill McBlain, Vice-Chair	492-5320	<a href="mailto:bill.mcblain@ualberta.ca">bill.mcblain@ualberta.ca</a>
Mark Dale	492-2888	<a href="mailto:mark.dale@ualberta.ca">mark.dale@ualberta.ca</a>
Laurier Fagnan	465-8603	<a href="mailto:laurier.fagnan@ualberta.ca">laurier.fagnan@ualberta.ca</a>
Yvette d'Entremont	465-8714	<a href="mailto:yvette@ualberta.ca">yvette@ualberta.ca</a>
Dennis Gignac	465-8761	<a href="mailto:dgignac@ualberta.ca">dgignac@ualberta.ca</a>
Claude Couture	465-8752	<a href="mailto:claudio.couture@ualberta.ca">claudio.couture@ualberta.ca</a>
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Michaela Mann	465-8748	<a href="mailto:mmann1@ualberta.ca">mmann1@ualberta.ca</a>
Robert Bisson	447-9481	<a href="mailto:robert.bisson@ata.ab.ca">robert.bisson@ata.ab.ca</a>
Jean Johnson	466-1680	<a href="mailto:jeanandree@shaw.ca">jeanandree@shaw.ca</a>
Nathalie Uwantege	474-9547	<a href="mailto:nuwantege@csrn.ab.ca">nuwantege@csrn.ab.ca</a>
Isabelle Déchène-Guay	465-8602	<a href="mailto:isabelle.guay@ualberta.ca">isabelle.guay@ualberta.ca</a>
William Foster	679-1166	<a href="mailto:wfoster@ualberta.ca">wfoster@ualberta.ca</a>

The information during this consultation is collected under the authority of Section 18 and Section 32 of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOI/PPA) for the purpose of the review of the Dean. Questions regarding the collection, use, or disposal of this information should be addressed to the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), 2-10 University Hall, University of Alberta T6G 2J9; Telephone: (780) 492-3920.



# Get informed *before* you vote



JAKE PRINS

I saw a picture once of P Diddy—or Puff Daddy, or whatever he was called at the time—and though I don't remember where or when I saw it, I can clearly recall what it depicted. It was a picture of him wearing a shirt that said "Vote or die." And if you Google that phrase, you too can see that same picture, along with snapshots of numerous other renowned political figures, like Paris Hilton, sporting the same shirt.

But "Vote or die" sounds a little extreme, so I'd like to propose an alternative political slogan: "If you have no clue who to vote for, don't follow orders from a T-shirt." Or maybe something a little more out there, like "Get informed." Otherwise, young people will go out and vote simply because a rapper told them to, which is all well and good except for the fact that you still don't know why or who you should be voting for—and a bunch of uninformed people making uninformed decisions is probably not going to help the process.

I was discussing this matter with my dad, and he told me a story about a guy he'd met once who thought California's population was 10 times that of Canada's, and who was sure that Canada had a population of only

3 million people. I recently had a similar experience while living in Ontario: I was arguing with an Ontarian (about milk bags, of all things), and she concluded her argument by telling me that there were "30 million Ontarians who would disagree with me."

Witnessing the lack of basic knowledge of one's country by some people sometimes makes you wonder if everyone should actually be allowed to vote.

**But "Vote or die" sounds a little extreme, so I'd like to propose an alternative political slogan: "If you have no clue who to vote for, don't follow orders from a T-shirt."**

So my pops had an idea to solve the "uninformed voter" problem, suggesting that for people to be eligible to vote they should have to pass a test. Your ballot would have two parts, with the first part being the candidates and the second part being five multiple-choice questions. You would have to get three or four of the questions right in order to have your vote count.

They could be fairly simple, like knowing Canada's approximate population. You could also get more creative with it, asking, "Who's the current Prime Minister of Canada?" If you don't know that, you probably don't

know any of the candidates running either, so your vote wouldn't count. They could ask, "Are you holding a pencil right now?" If you answered no, with a pencil, they'd just shred your ballot right then and there. I bet all those Reform Party sympathizers out there who feel the West is under-represented would find this system pretty appealing for the federal elections, as the 30-million-odd people who live in Southern Ontario would end up having their votes disallowed. And then we wouldn't have to worry about electing those damn Liberals and get the number of elected MPs who posed for their press photos wearing a cowboy hat back up to where it should be.

Finally, after the votes were tallied and the ineligible ones were put off to the side, they could give them all to me. I'd mail everyone out a letter informing them of a meeting I'd be holding. I'm not yet sure if the point of the meeting would be to teach them the basics of Canadian history and politics (and believe you me, if I'm teaching it, it's going to be the basics), or if it would be to try to sell them things they don't need—but either way, I'd make sure that everyone would make it.

Then, at the end of the letter, I could write, "If you're thinking about not coming to the meeting, please see the picture I've included in this envelope," and then if they'd been thinking about not attending, they'd look at the picture, which would just be me with a stern look on my face and wearing a T-shirt that says "You have to come." Because then they'd have to, since nobody can argue with a T-shirt.



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Government of Saskatchewan

# To make Alberta politics interesting, we need to stop voting along party lines



ELLIOT GOODINE

**"Rather than dividing ourselves along Red, Blue, or Orange lines and giving votes to one party all of the time, we as Albertans should be thinking through each issue and choosing the most reasonable party for the current political and economic climate when we go to the polls."**

With the approach of the provincial election on 3 March, I can't help but look at our neighbours to the south with envy. Compared to the grand production that they put on, it would be a strain to call Alberta politics anything but stagnant and boring.

In America right now, the democratic process has been truly exciting. The Democratic nomination race is so close that I can't help but be captivated by it. I never thought that I would be so fascinated with the stump speeches and micropolitics of each state, but these just happen to be the most interesting things going on in the political world right now.

The Republican vote also still has some excitement left in it too, with the far right attacking their front-runner, John McCain, for not being Republican enough, despite his unerring support for the war in Iraq and the Bush tax cuts, among other things. And now that Mitt Romney has dropped out of the race, Mike Huckabee might be able to capitalize on his Super Tuesday momentum and the anti-McCain vote for a come-from-behind victory.

Voter turnouts in the American primaries so far have also been setting new records, with the current eclectic mix of non-traditional candidates attracting new voters to the polls. Uncertainty

about the many possible outcomes, combined with the belief that change for the better is possible, has made the American presidential race riveting.

Back home, however, we fail to capture that same level of excitement because we have no new players and the current possibilities seem more like inevitabilities. Stelmach has been governing for over a year now, and though he hasn't done much in that time, he has little to fear, because though both Liberal leader Kevin Taft and NDP leader Brian Mason have been through elections before, they've been beaten by the Tories handily each time.

The campaign isn't promising much excitement in terms of issues either, as all of the parties have been pushing their positions for months now. Recent polls have shown a two-to-one lead for the PCs over the Liberals, and the rural Albertans who have been voting Tory for the last 37 years will make it certain that the likelihood of the election of a new government isn't slim—it's none.

If turnouts for younger voters are to improve, it will be necessary to provide voters with a political climate that offers more than a slim chance of a minority for Stelmach's government. The problem, however, is that for a Tory government in Alberta to be defeated, they would probably need to

start an apocalypse or two. In the US, it took two terms with Bush for voters to take notice and start using their political system effectively, yet here in Alberta, we still haven't caught wise after ten.

In order to reinvigorate Alberta's political discourse, voters need to pay more attention and do away with absolute party loyalty. Rather than dividing ourselves along Red, Blue, and Orange lines and giving votes to one party all of the time, we as Albertans should be thinking through each issue and choosing the most reasonable party for the current political and economic climate when we go to the polls. The voters who have invariably supported conservatives for so long have enabled Stelmach's do-nothing approach to government. With our current approach, die-hard Liberals and New Democrats are bound to suffer from continual depression. Alberta politics have simply been on autopilot for far too long to excite us anymore.

We here in Alberta shouldn't need to take a tailspin like America did before we start using our political system effectively and conscientiously. If US politics can teach us any lessons, the re-election of George W Bush in 2004 shows us something: if it looks like the government is headed on the wrong track, get rid of it immediately before it makes more of a mess.

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# Students' Union Employment Opportunities



**TERMS OF OFFICE:** MAY 1 2008 TO APRIL 30, 2009 (IN MOST CASES)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2008, 5:00 PM NO EXCEPTIONS

SUBMIT APPLICATION, COVER LETTER, RESUMES AND 3 REFERENCES (NAME & PHONE NUMBERS) TO 2-900 SUB

**APPLICATION FORMS:** AVAILABLE AT SU RECEPTION DESK 2-900 SUB, AND SUB, HUB, CAB, ETLIC INFO BOOTHS OR ONLINE AT [WWW.SU.UALBERTA.CA](http://WWW.SU.UALBERTA.CA).

## Important instructions

- Please submit only single sided documents. We thank everyone who applies; however, ONLY shortlisted applicants will be notified.
- Please be available for the noted interview time.
- Applicants must be undergraduate students and have paid full Students' Union fees.
- Positions are subject to Council ratification and signing of employment contract.

*Why not work on campus in a position that fits your class schedule? As an associate vice president you will gain valuable experience in volunteer management, budgeting and project management. All associate vice presidents are required to be in the office a minimum of 20 hours/week and are paid \$1300/month.*

### ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC

Reports to the VP Academic. Assists and reports on various academic issues – coordinating projects related to academic affairs. Represent the VP Academic and serve as the resource person for COFA, the ARG, GFCSC and student reps on University committees.

**Remuneration: \$1300/month**

*For further information contact the VP Academic Bobby Samuel: at 492-4236.*

Interviews scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, starting at 5:00 pm.

### ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL

Reports to the VP External. Assists with organization of on and off-campus events designed to introduce members of the community and prospective students to the Students' Union and the U of A.

**Remuneration: \$1300/month**

*For further information contact the VP External Steven Dollansky: 492-4236.*

Interviews scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, starting at 5:00 pm.

### ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT LIFE

Reports to the VP Student Life. Assists with the programming, events and the volunteer management components of the Student Life portfolio as well as other duties.

**Remuneration: \$1300/month**

*For further information contact the VP Student Life Chris Le: 492-4236.*

Interviews scheduled for Wednesday, April 2, starting at 5:00 pm.

### CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER

Reports to Students' Council and oversees all electoral logistics. Must be familiar with election process and bylaws. Excellent project management skills are required to succeed in this position.

**Remuneration: \$4032.00 honoraria**

*For further information contact Catherine van de Braak: [ea@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:ea@su.ualberta.ca)*

Interviews scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, starting at 5:00 pm.

*Passionate about giving back to the campus community? Looking for invaluable work experience? Apply to be a service director with the Students' Union! You will supervise staff and volunteers, oversee a budget, market the service and ensure the overall smooth running of the service. All service director positions are 30 hours per week and report to the Senior Manager of Student Services.*

### ECOS (ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION OFFICE OF STUDENTS) DIRECTOR

The Director of ECOS is responsible for researching, developing and implementing environmental programs for the Students' Union and students on campus.

**Remuneration: \$1536/month**

Interviews scheduled for Thursday, March 27, starting at 7:00 pm.

### OMBUDSERVICE (2)

*(Term of Employment: May 1, 2008 – August 31, 2009)*

The OmbudService is a joint U of A and SU service. The service is an advocate for fairness and due process and is responsible for information and referral on University policy, and protocols related to the academic and personal well being of all students.

**Remuneration: \$1558/month**

Interviews scheduled for Friday, March 28, starting at 4:30 pm.

### SAFEWALK DIRECTOR

The Safewalk Director is responsible for the overall operation of the Safewalk program, including working with other units on campus to improve and promote safety on campus. This is an excellent opportunity to develop volunteer management and administrative skills.

**Remuneration: \$1590/month**

Interviews scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, starting at 7:00 pm.

### STUDENT DISTRESS CENTRE DIRECTOR

In conjunction with the Distress Line, the SDC Director offers peer counseling, crisis intervention and information/referral services to the campus community. Applicants must have at least one year of comparable peer-counseling experience.

**Remuneration: \$1590/month**

Interviews scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, starting at 4:30 pm.

### STUDENT GROUP SERVICES DIRECTOR

The Student Group Services Director is responsible for organizing and providing support to a diverse array of over 300 student groups on campus, including group registration, risk management, training and granting.

**Remuneration: \$1536/month**

Interviews scheduled for Thursday, March 27 starting at 4:30 pm.

*For further information contact the Manager of Student Services at 492-4236*



# Volunteer Opportunities Boards & Committees



**TERMS OF OFFICE:** MAY 1 2008 TO APRIL 30, 2009 (IN MOST CASES)  
**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2008, 5:00 PM NO EXCEPTIONS  
SUBMIT COMPLETE PACKAGE TO 2-900 SUB  
**APPLICATION FORMS:** AVAILABLE AT SU RECEPTION DESK 2-900 SUB, AND SUB, HUB, CAB, ETLC INFO  
BOOTHS AND FACULTY ASSOCIATION OFFICES OR ONLINE AT WWW.SU.UALBERTA.CA.

### Important instructions

- Please submit only single sided documents. We thank everyone who applies, however ONLY shortlisted applicants will be notified.
- Please be available for the noted interview time.
- Applicants must be undergraduate students and have paid full Students' Union fees.
- Positions are subject to Council ratification and signing of employment contract.

## STUDENTS' UNION BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

### ACADEMIC RELATIONS GROUP

- Participate in activities raising student awareness of academic issues
- Assists and advises the Vice President Academic on academic issues.
- Participates in workshops & seminars to improve teaching on campus

*For further information contact the VP Academic Bobby Samuel: 492-4236.*  
Interviews scheduled for Monday, April 7, after 5:00 pm.

### CAMPAIGN PLANNING AND ACTION COMMITTEE

- Assists and advises the Vice President External
- Is actively involved in planning and implementing SU campus campaigns and events

*For further information contact the VP External Steven Dollansky: 492-4236.*  
Interviews scheduled for Thursday, April 10, after 5:00 pm.

### STUDENT LIFE PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

- Makes recommendations regarding SU entertainment, planning & implementation
- Plans and implements WOW & Anti-Freeze
- Assists and advises the Vice-President Student Life

*For further information contact VP Student Life Chris Le: 492-4236*  
Interviews scheduled for Thursday, April 11, after 5:00 PM

### STUDENT LIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Provides input on non-academic issues on campus
- Provides input on Student Services issues
- Plans and implements WOW & Anti-Freeze
- Assists and advises the Vice-President Student Life

*For further information contact VP Student Life Chris Le at 492-4236*  
Interviews scheduled for Wednesday, April 9, after 5:00 PM

### AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE

- Selects annual SU award winners
- Involved in numerous aspects of planning annual awards night

*For further information contact the Executive Assistant Catherine van de Braak: 492-4241.*  
Interviews scheduled for Wednesday, April 2 after 5:00 PM

## STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

### COMMITTEE ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- Requires one undergraduate student
- To recommend policy and serve as the focal point for consideration of policy issues in the University community

MEETS: At the call of the Chair  
Interviews scheduled for Monday, April 7, after 5:00 pm

### ONECARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Requires one undergraduate student to provide feedback and guidance on all aspects of the current and future ONEcard operations

MEETS: At the call of the Chair  
*For further information on Standing Committees contact the VP Academic Bobby Samuel at 492-4236.*  
Interviews scheduled for Monday, April 7, after 5:00 pm.

### UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA SENATE

- Requires three undergraduate students appointed by the Students' Union
- The Senate's responsibility is to inquire into any matter that may enhance the image of the University and act as a link between the University and the public. The Senate may also authorize the conferring of Honorary Degrees.

MEETS: Four times yearly  
*For further information contact the VP External Steven Dollansky at 492-4236*  
Interviews scheduled for Monday, April 7, after 5:00 pm.

### FACULTY BASED INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY STEERING COMMITTEE

- Requires four undergraduate students appointed by the Students' Union
- Successful candidates should have an interest and basic knowledge of information/communication technology and/or campus computing environments.

*For further information contact the VP Academic Bobby Samuel at 492-4236*  
Interviews scheduled for Monday, April 7, after 5:00 pm.

# the kids aren't all drunk

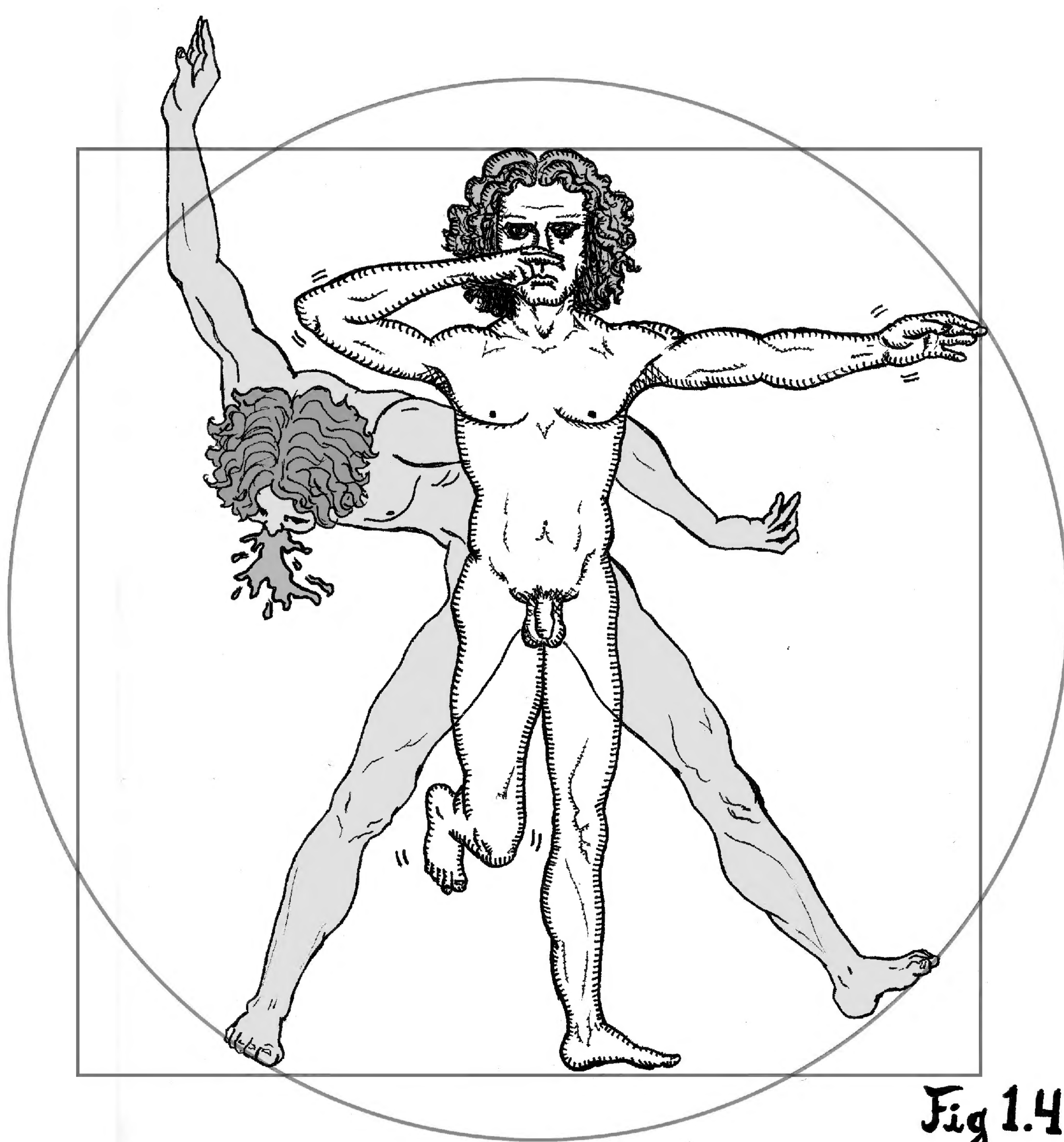


Fig 1.4

**THE**  
**Student**  
**Body** **PART 4**

a four-part feature on what we get out of what goes into our bodies



**B**ooze. Hooch. The hard stuff. Rotgut. Moonshine. White lightning. Grog. The demon rum. The bottle. The sauce. Grandpa’s cough medicine. Old Jack. Jagerbombs. Breakfast. Whatever you know it as, alcohol is a defining substance of student life. Whether it’s a beer up in RATT after a tough exam, cheap highballs at a nightclub on a Friday night, or a bottle of wine on your birthday, most students just can’t resist a good time with a glass in hand.

Even if you don’t drink, you undoubtedly have friends that partake in the consumption of libations or attend licensed events that get a little louder than usual when the beer flows freely. But despite the social nature and popularity of drinking, there are both benefits and consequences to your body when you down that triple scotch or strawberry daiquiri. So in the sole interest of students’ well-being, the *Gateway* is back one more time to let you know just what’s on tap when you decide to chug one down.

WRITTEN BY JEN HUYGEN AND JONN KMECH  
ILLUSTRATION BY LAUREN ALSTON || PHOTO BY MIKE OTTO

Daily Dosage

Between the time you crack the cap on your first brewski and the time you drunkenly profess your profound love for everyone in the room and pass out on a couch, it’s easy to tell that the alcohol you consumes has effects on your brain.

“Pharmacologically, ethanol provides a progressive activation of [gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA)] receptors, which is an inhibitory transmitter,” Dr. David Cook, a professor in the Department of Pharmacology, explains, adding that “it’s difficult for people to understand how a sedative drug can give you the excitement—people getting into fights and seducing each other—that alcohol seems to do.

“At low dose, it inhibits the circuits responsible for good behaviour that are designed to keep us in check,” he continues. “It has behavioural effects before it starts to damp down major physiological functions.” This explains why you’re such a smooth dancer earlier in the night before stumbling home later.

And as anyone who’s ever been to the bar later in the night has experienced, the bathrooms are always packed. Besides its effects in the brain, alcohol also has various effects through your system—starting with your kidneys.

According to Cook, “it inhibits the release of anti-diuretic hormone, which is the hormone that prevents us from peeing—and, as a result, you lose a lot of water, which makes you thirsty, so you tend to drink more.

“Also, it tends to vasodilate you, which is why you get pink when you drink, which actually makes you colder. You feel warmer, but you’re actually losing heat faster.”

Some of the common rules that people follow when drinking, despite sounding like old wives’ tales, are actually backed up by science. So when you tell yourself you’ll only have two drinks because you’ll be driving home in three hours, you’re implicitly trusting that your liver can keep up.

Thankfully, due to the way metabolism works, you’d be right. The liver

removes alcohol at a constant rate, which both allows you to follow the one-hour rule and allows you to keep a buzz going for hours if you overindulge.

“You can only eliminate one drink per hour because [ethanol’s] elimination kinetics are a little different from most other drugs’, which is the basis for that old rule of thumb,” Cook says. “If you have three drinks in a hurry, the other two drinks circulate around in the blood, getting you drunk, while the body attempts to get rid of that first drink you had.”

One of the most controversial topics these days is mixing energy drinks with alcohol, due both to its popularity among students and questions as to its safety. According to Cook, the issue is mostly a matter of realizing how impaired you actually are.

“Alcohol has a few saving graces. It’s not particularly potent, so if you want to kill yourself with alcohol, you have to be pretty determined. If you have enough of it, it’ll make you doopey, which isn’t really a bad thing because you may not be able to get that glass to your mouth anymore. But [if] you have an energy drink, you’ll wake up, but you’re still intoxicated. By combining energy drinks and vodka, you don’t tend to get so sleepy, but it doesn’t mean you’re sane or safe. It creates wide-awake drunks.”

Provided that you don’t go overboard on combinations like that, however, the occasional drink can be beneficial for your health. We’ve all heard the benefits of having a glass of wine every day, and Cook notes that there is scientific evidence to back that up—so long as you’re consistent.

“People who drink modest amounts of alcohol—I stress the word *modest*—seem to have a slightly lower incidence of cardiovascular disease. There’s no evidence that someone who’s a teetotaler who starts drinking gets that advantage.”

Survey says: you’re a lush

In the university population, as in the general population, there are teetotalers, abstainers, and everyone in

between. In 2004, a nationwide survey of alcohol use was conducted on several Canadian campuses, including the U of A. The resulting *Canadian Campus Survey of Alcohol and Drug Use* surveyed 7000 students, and according to Dr Cam Wild, an associate professor at the U of A Addiction and Mental Health Research Laboratory, this data is the most recent information we have on student drinking habits.

“About 77 per cent of undergraduates drank alcohol in the last month prior to the survey,” Wild explains. “Although a vast majority of students drink, the majority of them don’t actually get into trouble at all, which is a very positive thing. In general, alcohol use increases over the years of study—and males drink more than females, absolutely.”

Wild stresses that despite the large majority of responsible student drinkers, the minority that engage in hazardous practices and overconsumption stand to risk serious physical and lifestyle consequences.

Of the 77 percent, he said, “over 40 per cent of them report heavy binge drinking, which we define as drinking five or more standard drinks at least every two weeks or more frequently.”

“Not every heavy drinker has alcohol problems,” he says. “But about a third of drinkers do among undergraduates. About a quarter of student drinkers say they report doing things while drunk that they regret later, and about 15 per cent report that they have to miss class because they’re too hung over. If drinking is interfering with things in your life that you want to do, these are early signs that you’re drinking in a hazardous way, and you might want to reconsider your drinking patterns.”

Judy Hancock, health education coordinator with the University Health Centre, also stresses the ways alcohol can negatively affect one’s social life, ranging from poor sexual performance to dropping out of school entirely.

“One of the things that I see in my work is I see young men, 18–20 years old, coming in here with erectile problems,” Hancock says. “And it’s drinking-related. So I like to tell guys, ‘You



**READING WEEK IS SURE TO BRING LOTS OF PARTIES AND,** with them, the chance to meet lots of drunk and easily impressed people. This often requires more than just witty banter, though (which no one remembers the next morning anyways) and puts you in need of a good party trick—and fast. And with a week full of debauchery and college hijinks only one day away, there really isn’t much time to lose. Luckily, flair bartending—the most impressive of all party tricks—can be easily faked by learning a few simple moves as taught by former president of the U of A Flair Bartending Club Allan Greene.

BEHIND THE BACK

The point of this trick is to throw a bottle and catch it behind your back, impressing all your friends with the easiest flair move out there. Put one hand on the small of your back, palm up. This will be your catching hand. Extend the other out in front of you, holding the bottle by the neck. The trick to this is that you’re not actually throwing the bottle behind you—you’re throwing it straight up and turning your body to catch it. Throw the bottle straight up and not too high, and watch it all the way into your catching hand, securing the bottom of the bottle in your palm.

THE COCKTAIL MOVE

A move featured in both *Cocktail* and *Coyote Ugly*, the point of this stunt is to flip a bottle over your hand and catch it upside down, pouring the liquor into a cup. Put your arm out in front of you, holding a bottle by the neck. In your other hand, have a glass ready to pour into. To flip the bottle, flick your wrist out and release, letting the bottle spin one and a half times over your hand and back into the middle of your body. Grab

the bottle by the neck when it’s upside down, and hold it over the awaiting cup. Don’t forget to do your best pre-sciencology Tom Cruise impression.

THE STALL

The point of this trick is to flip the bottle up onto the back of your outstretched hand. Hold the bottle with the neck running in between your outstretched index and middle fingers into your palm. Flick the bottle up just high enough that you can slip your hand, palm down, under it. Let it rotate almost 360 degrees, so the bottom is once again facing down. The trick is to make contact with just one edge of the bottom first, allowing the bottle’s rotation to bring it in full contact with the top of your hand, like a closing door. Although this trick is more advanced, it’s also the most impressive.

Just remember: if you want to look good in time for the party, do a little practice. If you do these for real, you’ll be flipping glass bottles full of booze around, and nothing’s worse than shattering your drinks for the night on the ground.

—Tom Wagner



can party, or you can *party*—you can't do both."

"A certain population of people will go on to be alcoholics; some of them will drop out of school," she says. "You'll have other people that really mess up their relationships because of the way they behave when they're drinking."

However, Hancock believes that the biggest danger inherent in drinking is the ever-present possibility of alcohol poisoning.

"My big concern with drinking, and the reason the peer health educators address the topic of alcohol, is that the big danger is in relatively inexperienced drinkers, especially on occasions like birthdays where you start downing shots and you get into alcohol poisoning—and that kills people," she says.

Alcohol poisoning is brought on by drinking too much too quickly. The body naturally reacts to the effects by vomiting and passing out, and it can

of responsible drinkers that students remember when they are out at the bar or at a party; rather, it's the minority that cause problems as a result of drunkenness.

"The morning after the party, do we remember and talk about the majority who enjoyed themselves without incident or the minority who experienced the negative consequences? Well of course the people you're going to remember and talk about are the ones who were really drunk and caused a problem or made fools of themselves."

But as Wild points out, even the ones who made fools of themselves usually change eventually. While a small percentage will go on to have further problems with alcohol, the stresses of adult life generally put an end to the excess.

"One of the most robust things we know is that when undergraduates graduate and get married, get a job, move on with their lives, their drinking patterns tend to mature out. A small

"Gross profit on alcohol beverages [...] is budgeted as being \$230 000 for the year," Gamble says. "Now, last year was a record-setting year for RATT, and that number is up quite a bit from the previous year. The year before that, it had only been budgeted at about \$160 000, so we've seen a significant increase there due to the lack of popularity of the Powerplant. A lot of that is just spillover."

Gamble also noted that Dewey's, in its first semester open, rang in just under \$30 000 by the end of December for gross profit on alcoholic beverages.

The increase in RATT's sales stands out against an increasingly downward trend in the market for alcohol consumption on Canadian campuses. Better reflected by the decision to close down the Powerplant last year, which took in approximately \$70 000 in alcohol sales per year, Gamble predicts the campus bar scene isn't in line to make a comeback anytime soon.

these campus bars because it's easier to attract students back to campus at night, so they don't go out," Gamble notes.

"It's not that students don't drink when they don't live in residence; it's just that they find other places closer to home to do so or are drawn to places where they have more selection, like Whyte Ave and Jasper Ave."

And while even the most faithful Listerites don't always contain their weekend pursuits to RATT, the convenience and added safety measures are what Gamble thinks make the SU's two watering holes preferable alternatives to outside establishments.

"On this campus, we have Campus 5-0; we have Safewalk; we have a lot of different systems to protect these students at night. When they're on Whyte Ave or Jasper Ave, there's no such guarantees. So it is disappointing to see this trend, but it's one that I'm sure will continue for a little while," he says.

**"Alcohol has a few saving graces.**

**It's not particularly potent, so if you want to kill yourself with alcohol, you have to be pretty determined."**

**DR DAVID COOK**  
**Department of Pharmacology**

result in possible brain damage and even death.

"If you [drink too much too fast], you overwhelm your body's natural defenses, [which] are, one, you'll start puking it out because your body's saying, 'Hey, you're poisoning me here,' and it starts to get rid of it, or your body will pass out so that you can't pour any more into it," she explains.

Hancock advises that the best thing to do in a situation where alcohol poisoning is suspected is to turn the victim onto their side into the recovery position, stay with them, and call an ambulance and Campus 5-0 for help.

According to Hancock, a major factor contributing to serious overdrinking are myths surrounding alcohol. She says students often hold misconceptions about their peers' drinking patterns and tend to overestimate how much they actually consume.

"There was a campaign a couple of years ago [in 2003] looking at how much students really do drink and how much they think other students drink. And it came out to 60 per cent of students drink one to three drinks or not at all at parties and bars," Hancock says. "[That] surprised everybody [because] everybody thought it was much higher than that. So there's this generalized perception that there's a lot more drinking going on than is really going on."

As she puts it, it's not the 60 per cent

subset never do, but most people age out of it."

For those who continue to enjoy the occasional drink when they get home from class or work, Wild recommends no more than two drinks per day as a safe guideline, and no more than 14 in a week.

"There is a small but reliable positive benefit of moderate alcohol consumption on cardiovascular health, but any more than two drinks and the protective benefit goes away," he says.

#### **Booze is big business**

In light of the popularity of undergraduate student drinking and the corresponding price of alcoholic beverages, the U of A Students' Union has long capitalized on the lucrative market for campus bars and licensed venues. Besides RATT and Dewey's—the two permanently licensed establishments on campus after the Powerplant's much-publicized closure in 2007—the U of A also maintains temporary liquor licensing facilities in the Dinwoodie Lounge, Lister Conference Center, and the Faculty Club.

According to Students' Union Vice-President (Operations and Finance) (and ardent Guinness fan) Eamonn Gamble, RATT pulls in six-figure profits on a regular basis, and has seen a substantial increase in sales over the past fiscal year, which is attributed to patronage coming over from the Powerplant.

"I don't think it'll ever be focused on booze to the extent it was 2–3 years ago—there's just not the market for that anymore. Even if there was, even in the general marketplace, you see bars that at one point were extremely popular going under, changing their name, changing their name again two years later," Gamble points out. "I just don't think it's an industry we should be gambling students' money on."

He attributes part of the decline in sales and popularity to the culture surrounding campus bars and the difference between student priorities today and in years past.

"When these campus bars were in their heyday was when small-time bands were much more popular. There used to be a time when any band that broke in Edmonton broke at the Powerplant, or made it big. We're just not in that era anymore," Gamble says.

"Students just don't stick around on campus—they've got jobs; they've got volunteer things to do; they've got studying to do. We find it harder to keep them on campus."

As a way to rejuvenate interest in staying on campus to partake in drinking rituals, Gamble links more spaces in residence as a way to reverse the downward trend.

"Rejuvenation in campus bars would require a couple of things, one being an increased focus on residence spaces at the University. Most campuses that have a strong residence community find they can still operate

#### **One more for the road**

The connection between living in residence and living off-campus without the influence of parents has also been linked through study in relation to drinking rates. As Wild points out, those students living on their own are more likely to engage in heavy drinking.

"Undergraduates who drink the least are those that live at home with their parents," he explains. "Those that drink the most are those who live off-campus without their parents or who live on-campus without their parents. But it's the parents—if you don't have the parents in the picture, you drink more in general."

Even after you move out of your parents' house, leave, and go off into the working world outside academia, alcohol will still likely be an aspect of your life in some way. According to Wild, besides our academic obligations, the university experience also teaches us how to grow into mature citizens that can make responsible decisions about responsible alcohol use.

"Part of learning how to drink is learning how to drink in a way that enhances your experience rather than puts you at risk for things. It means learning how to set limits on how much alcohol you enjoy without putting yourself at risk for other negative consequences. Alcohol can be a part of a well-rounded life, but it has to be seen in its proper context."



**NOW THAT YOU'VE FIGURED OUT HOW** your eating, drinking, and sleeping patterns affect your body, it's time to fess up to all the bad things you've done and take pride in them by taking the Gateway's World Famous Purity Test. Challenge your friends! Challenge yourself! See how much of a dirtbag you really are!\*

PHOTOS BY MIKE OTTO AND INDY RANDHAWA  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY LAUREN ALSTON AND MIKE KENDRICK  
TATTOO LOGO BY KELSEY TANASIUK

# a little debauchery does a body good

THE BRAIN

*Whether you're filling it with caffeine to stay up later, drowning it with booze to grease the wheels when finding Mr or Mrs Right Now, extracting everything you can from it about the effects of 13th-century Italian architecture on the rise of the city-state, or trying to understand needlessly long and digressive sentences such as this one, manipulating the brain can encompass some of the most delightfully impure acts imaginable. And if you imagine it, you can probably score points for it. Go!*

- Have you ever been drunk? (1 pt)
- Have you even been crunk? (2pt)
- Have you ever been so drunk that a new term for your state of inebriation had to be coined? (5pts)
- Have you ever been so drunk you threw up? (2pts)
- At a bar? (2pts)
- On the bar? (5pts)
- In the shower/bathtub? (3pts)
- In a jacuzzi? (4pts)

- While on the toilet? (5pts)
- At Grandma's house? (20pts)
- Have you ever been so drunk you couldn't talk straight? (3pts)
- That you couldn't walk straight? (4pts)
- That you couldn't see straight? (5pts)
- That you couldn't see at all? (10pts)
- Have you ever been so drunk you peed your pants? (3pts)
- That you peed someone else's pants (4pts, but -1 friend)
- Are you Miles Davis? (100pts)
- Have you ever woken up in a puddle of your own vomit? (5pts)
- Of someone else's vomit? (10pts)
- Have you ever had alcohol poisoning? (15pts)
- Did you still go drinking the next night? (20pts)
- Have you ever still been drunk when you woke up? (2pts)
- Did you still go to work? (1pt)
- Did you call in sick with a BS excuse? (1pt)
- Have you ever started drinking before 9am? (2pts)
- Did you start drinking before 9am today? (3pts)

- Is there a type of alcohol you've developed an aversion to due to over-consumption? (1pt for each variety (not brand))
- What's the most consecutive days you've been drunk? (1pt for every day over 3)
- Have you ever driven drunk? (5pts, asshole)
- Are you the reason drinking and driving jumped 25 per cent in 2007? (100pts)
- Did you do it just to go to jail? (5pts)
- Have you ever written an exam while drunk? (2pts)
- Have you marked an exam while drunk? (3pts)
- Are you drunk right now? (1pt)
- Have you ever been high on weed? (2pt)
- Ecstasy? (3pt)
- 'Shrooms? (3pt)
- Acid? (3pts)
- Meth? (4pts)
- Speed? 4pts)
- Glue or gas? (5pts)
- Cocaine? (8pts)
- Heroin? (10pts)
- Life? (-1pt)
- Life the cereal? (2pts, unless your name is Mikey)

\*actual results may vary





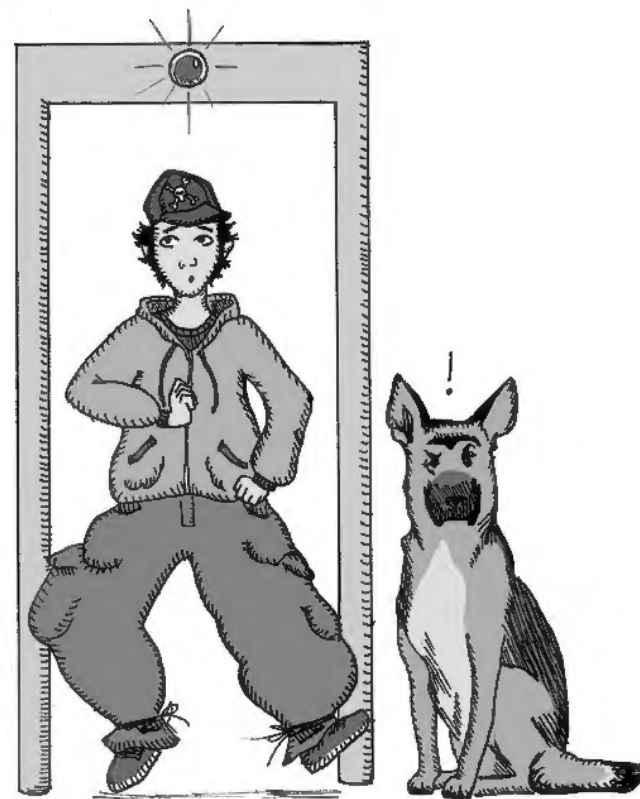
Take part in the debauchery,  
then post your Purity Test score online at

[www.thegatewayonline.ca/puritytest](http://www.thegatewayonline.ca/puritytest)



Have you ever blacked out? (3pts)  
Have you ever greened out? (5pts)  
Have you ever peaced out? (-1pt)

Have you ever carried drugs through airport security? (3pts)  
By accident? (-1pt)  
In your anus? (5pts)  
In your urethra? (10pts)  
In someone else's urethra? (15pts)  
Without their knowledge? (20pts)



Have you ever rolled a joint using a newspaper? (1pt)  
Was it the *Gateway*? (-1pt—hey, we make the rules here)  
Have you ever rolled a joint using money? (-2pts, moron—you could have used that to buy more drugs)  
Using holy scripture? (5pts)  
Using old joints (roaches)? (10pts, and -1 lung)

Have you ever smoked smokeless tobacco? (-1pt)  
Was it out of a hookah sold to you by the SU? (3pt)  
Have you ever hung out at a hookah bar in the hopes of getting laid? (1pt)  
Was it because you thought they said "hooker bar"? (-2pts)  
Did you still manage to pick up a hooker there? (5pts)

Have you ever hung out at a coffee shop in the hopes of getting laid? (1pt)  
Did it actually work? (2pts)  
Did it result only in a dead laptop battery, bad breath, and another half-finished *New York Times* crossword puzzle? (-3pts)

How much money do you spend on coffee in a regular day? (1pt for every dollar over 3, rounding down)  
Do you use a disposable cup every time? (1 pt, and get a damn travel mug)  
Do you throw out a travel mug every time? (5pts)  
How many adjectives do you require to order your coffee drink of choice? (-1 pt for every word over 3, Fauntleroy)  
Are you physically dependent on coffee? (2 pts)  
Is the coffee industry dependent on you? (100 pts)

Have you ever taken caffeine pills? (3pts)  
Chill pills? (-1pts)  
Do you drink energy drinks? (1pt)  
Is it so you can get wings? (-1)  
Do you actually have wings? (20pts—that's pretty badass)  
Is it to feel like a rock star? (-1pt)  
Are you a rock star? (10pts)  
Are you a star at *Rock Band*? (1pt for having achieved a 100 per cent score on easy, 2pts for medium, 3pts for hard, 4pts for expert)

Have you ever stayed up all night? (1pt)  
Were you cramming for an exam? (1pt)  
Were you playing *Rock Band* when you should have been cramming for an exam? (2pts)  
Did you fail as a result? (2pts for failing the test; -2pts for failing the song)  
Were you just constantly refreshing your Facebook page and watching *Alf* reruns? (-3pt)

What's the longest you've ever stayed awake? (2pts for every 12-hour period over 24)  
Have you ever foiled a terrorist plot in a 24-hour period? (10pts)  
Have you ever come back from being tortured in China, killed someone by biting them in the neck, killed your former partner, foiled a nuclear terrorist threat, found out your father was an evil mastermind, hung a terrorist by his neck from a chain, sold state secrets to a rival superpower, found out your girlfriend was damaged goods, jumped into the ocean from a moving helicopter, and dispatched with 46 other people in a 24-hour period? (1000pts)

#### THE HEART

*Nothing gets the blood flowing like the four-ventricled pump in your chest, and nothing makes the pulse race more than the prospect of a romp between the sheets. Pupils dilate, blood pressure goes through the roof, temperature rises, arteries constrict, muscles tense up and spasm, and a bunch of other fairly disgusting physiological symptoms take place. While you won't score any points for an elevated heart rate and blood pressure, you will for just about everything else you can do with your naughty bits.*

Have you ever kissed someone? (1pt)  
Have you ever made out for 50 straight minutes or longer? (3pts)  
Have you ever kissed someone you'd never met before? (2pts)

Did you never end up finding out their name? (2pts)

Ever kissed someone (romantically) whom you later found out you were related to? (2pts)  
Did it not deter you? (3pts)  
Did you knowingly kiss someone (romantically) that you were related to? (4pts)  
Ever practiced kissing on yourself? (2pts)

Ever French-kissed someone? (1 pt)  
Ever Eskimo-kissed someone? (2pt for not using a more culturally-sensitive term, jerk)  
Ever Butterfly-kissed someone? (1pt, but 5pts if you somehow caused eye-damage to the other person)

Have you ever reached "second base"? (2pts)  
"Third base"? (3pts)  
Have you ever "stolen a base"? (4pts)  
Did you think we were actually talking baseball for these? (-5 pt)

Have you ever stolen someone's heart? (1pt)  
Someone's lover? (2pts)  
Someone's virginity? (3pts)  
Someone's kidney? (100pts)  
Did you at least have to courtesy to leave them in a tub full of ice? (-5pts, wuss)

Have you ever broken up with someone? (1pt)  
Over the phone? (1pt)  
Via Text Message? (1pt)  
Via Instant Message? (1pt)  
Via suicide note? (-10pts for failing)

Have you ever had sex? (4pts)  
With more than one person at a time? (5pts for every extra participant)  
Was there a cup? (20pts)  
What's the most times you've had sex in a 24-hour period? (1pt for every time after the first)

Have you ever had sex in a public place? (5pts)  
In full public view? (10pts)  
In Quad? (3pts)  
Was it during the tuition campout? (-3pts; tuition protests never work)  
Did you call it "the Quad"? (-1pt)  
In Cameron Library? (1pt)  
Rutherford Library? (1pt for the fifth floor, 5 for the main floor, etc)  
In a crowded SUB elevator on your way down from RATT? (10pts)  
The Ag/For atrium? (3pts)  
Did the birds watch? (3pts)

Lister Hall? (1pt, but only because of the risk of infection)  
Did you actually catch an STI? (3pts)  
Did you catch the Norovirus? (3pts)

Did you catch the mumps? (2pts)  
Did you catch the mumps while standing in line for the vaccination? (3pts)



# the purity test drinking game

Because what's the point in getting a high score if you can't drunkenly gloat about it?

- For every 10 points that you rack up, take a drink.
- Any time that you lose any amount of points, take a drink.
- Any time you're too bashful to answer a question or fail to answer in an appropriate amount of time (as determined by your peers), take a drink.
- Whoever has the lowest score at the end of the Purity Test must take a shame shot, and the person with the highest score must take a victory shot.
- Take a bonus shot if playing the Purity Test Drinking Game increases your purity test score.
- Make up some more rules if you're not getting drunk enough!



Was it because you got bored and started making out with the random strangers around you? (4pts)  
Are you that Jill girl that no one likes anymore? (5pts)

Have you ever traded sex for favours? (5pts)  
For money? (10pts)  
For a priceless rookie card? (5pts)  
For Robert Nilsson, Ryan O'Marra, and a first-round pick? (30pts and a 20-game losing streak)

Have you ever had oral sex? (2pts)  
Anal sex? (6pts)  
Crazy upside down moon sex? (15pts)  
Boring upside-down moon sex? (-2pts; c'mon, how did you mess that up?)  
Sex with an animal? (10pts)  
With a stuffed animal? (3pts)  
With someone dressed as a stuffed animal? (5pts)  
With someone so ugly they looked and smelled like an animal? (3pts)

Have you ever had sex with a professor? (5pts)  
Did you get better marks as a result? (5pts)  
Did you still fail? (-5pts for being bad at cheating)  
Have you ever had sex with a doctor? (2pts; they get a lot of tail)  
To get a better transplant organ? (20pts)  
Did you still die? (-5pts for lying)

Have you ever cried before sex? (1pt)  
After sex? (1pt)  
During sex? (2pts)  
To get sex? (3pts)  
To get out of a speeding ticket? (4pts)  
To get out of a prostitution charge? (5pts)  
Did it work? (15pts)

Have you ever lied just to get sex? (2pts)  
Have you ever written in the *Gateway* just to get sex? (1pt)  
Have you ever joined a sports team just to get sex? (3pts)  
A debate club? (-1pt)  
An anime club? (-2pts)

Have you ever had an STI? (1 pt for each, an extra point for each one that isn't curable, and 5pts if it's deadly and incurable)  
Have you ever had scurvy? (1 pt; yar, eat some vegetables)  
Some disease you'd only ever heard about on *House*? (5pts, but -10 if it's lupus)  
Have they named an STI after you? (50pts)

Have you ever died of dysentery? (1pt)  
Did you ever knowingly let your kid die of dysentery just so you could fit more food on the wagon? (1pt)  
More bullets? (2pts)

Did you start out as the banker just to have more money? (-1pt)

Are you not allowed to donate blood? (1pt)  
Was it because, in your past or present job, you've handled monkeys or their bodily fluids? (3pts)  
Was it when you were working at a restaurant? (5pts)

Have you ever taken a free condom from Peer Health Educators? (-1pt for using condoms)  
Was it because you were too cheap to pay for them yourself? (1pts)  
Have you ever had unprotected sex? (3pts)

Have you ever had sex by accident? (3pts)  
Have you ever had surprise sex? (4pts)  
Accidental surprise sex? (5pts)

How many letters of the alphabet have you claimed in sexual partners? (1pt for each first name)

You masturbate. Take a point. Go on ... that's it. (1)  
What's your one-day wanking record? (1pt for every time beyond the first)  
Have you ever masturbated with a significant other in the room? (2pts)  
Was he/she asleep? (2pts)  
Ever masturbated with your parents in the room? (3pts)  
Ever done it at university? (3pts)  
During a boring lecture? (4pts)  
During a really riveting lecture? (5pts; your plate tectonics fetish is disgusting)

Have you ever masturbated without using your hands? (5pts)  
Using someone else's hand? (1pt)  
While they were asleep? (5pts)  
Have you ever fallen asleep while masturbating? (2pts)  
Do you have to masturbate to fall asleep? (3pts)  
Have you ever woken up in the middle of the night to masturbate? (5pts)

Have you given yourself a stranger? (5pts)  
Are you a "switch-hitter"? (2pts you ambidextrous sonofabitch)  
Do you use toys?(2pt)  
Puppets? (3pts)  
Do you roleplay? (5pts)  
Do you send yourself fan mail? (-2)

## THE BODY

*Sure, you can do a lot with your brain and your heart, but think about all the cool stuff you can do with the rest of that coked-out, over-sexed shell you call a body—at least six of the Ten Commandments and five of the Seven Deadly Sins, for starters.*

Were you ever on the giving or receiving end of a teen pregnancy (17 or younger)? (5pts)  
Did you do it before teen pregnancy sold out? (1pts)  
Are you the reason "teen pregnancy is suddenly cool"? (2pts)  
Has your life ever been narrated by an all-seeing and all-knowing Ron Howard? (5pts)



Do you have a tattoo? (1pt for each tattoo or small cluster; 5 for a full back or torso; 15 points if you're that lizard dude)  
Is it "old school"? (1 pt each)  
Are you Amy Winehouse? (100pts on a good day)  
Is it a tramp stamp? (3pts)  
Is it just of a bunch of symbols you don't understand? (-1pt each)  
Is it a giant, full-body depiction of Gene Simmons that you don't understand? (10pts)

Do you have a piercing? (1pt each, but ears don't count, Sally-Anne. Unless you've got those stretching discs, in which case, 1pt for each size you've reached)  
Do you have full-body piercing, somehow? (20pts)  
Are you just impaled something permanently? (50pts)  
Do you regularly cause delays at airport security? (3pts)  
Is it because you insist on sitting in the cockpit? (-3pts)

Do you own a firearm? (3pts)  
Is it a pellet gun? (-1pt)  
A Nerf gun? (-3pts)

Can you pick a lock? (2pts)  
Do you pick your nose? (1pt)  
Do you eat it? (3pts)  
Do you save it for later? (1pt)  
Do you wipe it under the desk? (3pts)  
Have you ever picked your bum? (4pts)  
Did it make bubble gum? (10pts)







# THE GATEWAY

volume x number y paper at the university of alberta — [www.thegatewayonline.ca](http://www.thegatewayonline.ca) — thursday, 14 february, 2008



THE  
**Student  
Body** PART 4





Have you ever punched someone? (1pt)  
Upper-cutted someone? (2pts)  
Drop-kicked someone? (5pts)  
Donkey-punched someone? (10pts)  
Vulcan death-pinched someone? (-2pts; just because you saw it on *Star Trek* doesn't mean it works)

Have you ever flipped the bird? (1pt)  
On a jumbotron? (3pts)  
At a bird? (-3pts; why?)

Have you ever been in a fight? (1pt)  
A bar fight? (2pts)  
A bench-clearing brawl? (3pts)  
Did you win? (2pts)  
How many five-year-olds could you take in fight? (1pt for every five, rounding down)

Are you in a gang? (10pts)  
Do you just call your chess club friends that? (-5pts)  
Have you ever waved a gang sign? (2pts)  
A peace sign? (-1pt)  
Do you abuse the high five? (-1pt)  
Do you abuse hugs? (-2pts)

Have you ever been stabbed at an Edmonton-area nightclub? (10pts)  
Shot? (15pts)  
Did you still go for late-night pizza? (20pts)

Have you ever eaten a donair? (1pt; you owe your stomach an apology)  
Have you ever eaten a Marco's Wildcat donair? (2pts, but -1 if you didn't finish it)  
Have you ever eaten an actual wildcat? (10pts)  
Have you ever eaten a Marco's Tombstone donair? (5pts)  
An actual tombstone? (20pts)

Have you ever had meat sweats? (1pt)  
Have you ever been meat drunk? (3pts)  
Meat crunk? (5pts)

Have you ever had an eating disorder? (3pts for each, plus 1 bonus point if they were at the same time)  
Have you ever eaten in a disorderly manner? (1pt)  
Have you ever eaten an orderly? (10pts)  
Have you ever eaten so much you threw up? (2pts)  
Have you ever thrown up just to have more room for food? (3pts)

Have you ever ignored a clearly marked expiration date? (1pt)  
When feeding your roommates? (2pts)  
Just to get a bigger room? (3pts)  
Just to get in the shower earlier? (5pts)

When feeding your children? (3pts)  
When donating to the food bank? (4pts)

Have you ever stolen anything? (1pt)  
Was it someone's domain name? (2pts)  
Did you govern yourself accordingly afterwards? (-2pts)  
Have you ever stolen something weighing more than you do? (2pts)  
Something you didn't even want? (1pt)  
A domain name you didn't even want? (2pt)  
Have you ever stolen a *Gateway*? (-1pt—they're free, dumbass)

**BONUS LIGHTNING ROUND!**

How many Purity Tests have you taken? (1pt each, to a maximum of 7, in which case, it's time to graduate loser)  
Have you ever got a negative score on the purity test? (-100pts! Bwa ha ha ha! You can never escape!)  
Are you doing this test over beers in RATT? (1pt)  
Are you doing this test in class? (2pts)  
Are you doing this test during an exam? (3pts)  
Were you completely honest about every answer? (-1pt; you should have lied about your negative score)



**THE DIAGNOSIS**

**1-75: YOU'RE AS HEALTHY AS A HORSE**

Congratulations! After a rigorous series of highly scientific medical tests, our experts have deemed you fit as a fiddle. Though you may occasionally put your body through some mild stress, on the whole you take good care of yourself, and as a result, you should live a long and happy, if sexually unfulfilled, life. Wuss.

**GATEWAYERS IN THIS CATEGORY:** Paul Blinov, Kirsten Goruk

**76-150: YOU MAY BE COMING DOWN WITH SOMETHING**

A little blood work shows that while you've caused a little damage to yourself, it's nothing that can't be taken care of by keeping your fluids up, slurping down some soup and getting a good night's rest. Just in case, take it easy for awhile and call us again in a couple weeks. And then get drinking some more.

**GATEWAYERS IN THIS CATEGORY:** Robin Collum, Adam Gaumont, Ramin Ostad, Mike Otto, Steve Smith

**151-225: IT'S SERIOUS, BUT IT'S TREATABLE**

It's a good thing you wrote the test today—we've discovered some serious anomalies in your results that show that you've got a clinical case of douchebaggery. Luckily, we've caught it early enough that you can get better, with treatment. We'll have to keep you here overnight, and we're starting you on an IV drip, which should take care of the worst of it.

**GATEWAYERS IN THIS CATEGORY:** Natalie Climenhaga, Jonn Gagnon, Mike Kendrick, Paul Owen, Sean Steels

**226+: I'M SORRY, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO**

Guess what: you're dying, and it's your own damn fault, you sleazy dirtbag. A little less time spent fulfilling all your hedonistic pleasures and a little more time spent sleeping, eating foods that actually have *vitamins* in them, and not ingesting every substance you could find under your kitchen sink. We'd tell you to hit the showers if your bathroom wasn't filled with drug paraphernalia.

**GATEWAYERS IN THIS CATEGORY:** Conal Pierce





## SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

### U of A Symphonic Wind Ensemble

With Edmonton's Royal Canadian Artillery Band

Friday, 15 February at 8pm

Convocation Hall (Old Arts Building)

The Edmonton Royal Canadian Artillery Band, one of six professional Canadian Armed Forces bands, teams up with the University of Alberta Symphonic Wind Ensemble for this show that combines the best elements of big band-style jazz, wind instruments, and maybe even heavy artillery fire. The show features pieces from Wind Ensemble alumni, the premier of David Maslanka's *Symphony No. 7*, and a piece called "Frenergy," a combination of frantic and energy that's the best fusion of words since ginormous. The songs from the performance will also be included in the Wind Ensemble's first recorded album, which will be released at the end of the school year.

### Dangerous Liaisons

Alberta Ballet

15-16 February at 8pm

Jubilee Auditorium

This thrilling French tale of romance and betrayal, set in the age of Louis XVI, follows the story of the Marquise de Merteuil, who convinces her ex-lover Vicomte Sebastian de Valmont to seduce the innocent Cecile de Volanges in order to get back at the man she must marry. This bet results in a vicious love tetrahedron of sleazy and diabolical proportions that would nowadays be suitable only for daytime television.

### Mos Def

With Guests

Saturday, 16 February at 9pm

Edmonton Events Centre

Born Dante Terrell Smith, rapper Mos Def is best known through his partnership with Talib Kweli, his work with Kanye West, and his burgeoning solo career. The socially conscious rapper is touring to promote the release of his upcoming fourth solo album *The Ecstatic*, due for release in April. Besides rap, Mos Def also has had an extensive acting career; after studying experimental theatre at New York University, he got his break as Bill Cosby's sidekick in *The Cosby Mysteries*, and is most recently starring in *Be Kind Rewind* with Jack Black.

### Tanya Prochazka

Sunday, 17 February at 7:30pm

Holy Trinity Anglican Church (10037 84 Avenue)

University of Alberta cello and chamber music professor Tanya Prochazka performs solo in this show, being put on by the Edmonton Recital Society. One of Canada's most accomplished cellists, the Australian-born Prochazka plays frequently on the international stage, as well as regularly with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and on CBC Radio. She will be performing Bach cello suites No 2 and No 6, renowned for their difficulty, as well as a cello suite by Benjamin Britten.

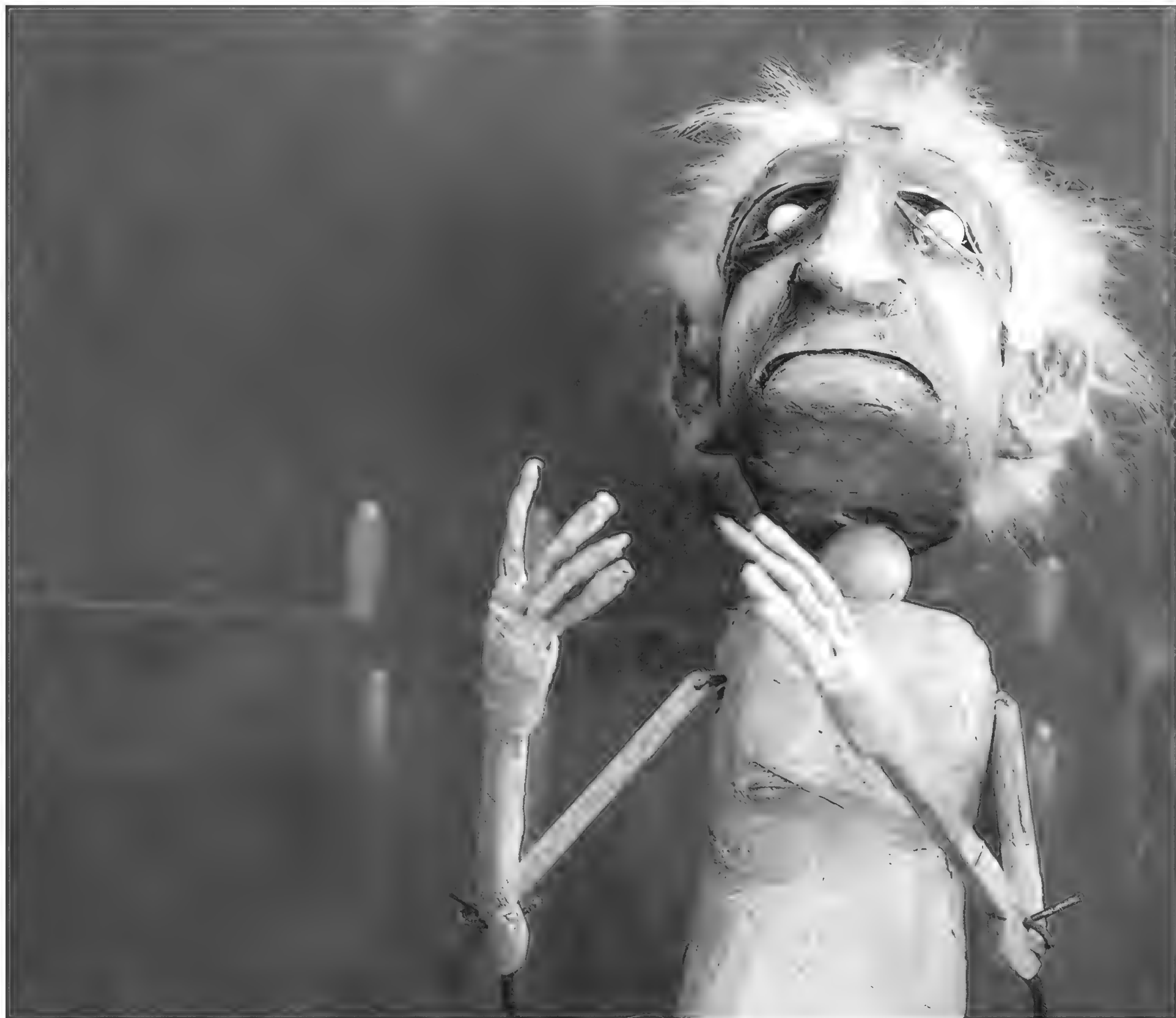
### Riverdance

17-24 February, various times

Jubilee Auditorium

The world-renowned Riverdance spectacle taps its way into Edmonton for the whole of Reading Week. The Irish step-dancing show has enjoyed countless performances across the world and numerous appearances in the monologues of late-night comedians during its 14-year run. Combining their love of dancing with their love of pleasant streams, Riverdance brings together two out of three of the Irish's greatest traditions. For more information on the third, refer to this issue's well-written, in-depth feature.

JOHN KMECH  
The Arts & Entertainment



## In with the Old Trouts, out with the puppets

*Famous Puppet Death Scenes* skips the plot and examines the final chapter of puppet lives

### theatrepreview

#### Famous Puppet Death Scenes

Runs until 2 March

Directed by Tim Sutherland

Starring Peter Balkwill, Mitchell Craib, Pityu Kenderes, Judd Palmer, Stephen Pearce, and Tim Sutherland

The Roxy (10708 124 Street)

DAVID JOHNSTON  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

It's five minutes into our conversation when Judd Palmer of the Old Trout Puppet Workshop openly admits his immaturity and that of his fellow artists. Then again, the lucid periods of the first five minutes probably should have been a big enough clue.

"We were buddies back in our youth, and we were summer camp counsellors, and we were clearly the weirdest guys in camp," Palmer deadpans. "But then Y2K was coming [...] so we figured it would be better to gather together for mutual protection down on this ranch in southern Alberta. There was plenty of food in case of apocalypse, guns in case of roving mutants [...]. We needed some way of bringing revenue into our gang, so we started doing puppet shows for adults, oddly enough."

But the audiences of cowboys and "Hutterites from across the river" were enough to breathe life into the newly formed troupe, and the boys of Old Trout had found their calling.

"Plus, I had a general belief that, somehow, the world of puppets was keyed to some dark underworld of Bohemians," he continues, "Prague basements, smoking cigarettes [...]" it's all true, by the way."

Palmer and his gang will be returning to Alberta this month, bringing their latest pupaphobia-inducing masterpiece, *Famous*

*Puppet Death Scenes*, to Edmonton. Billed as a collection of the greatest death scenes in the puppet theatre canon, the show has been touring North America for the past two years, growing and changing along the way.

"I don't remember a lot of death scenes in the puppet theatre canon. In fact, that's pretty well true [that there really aren't any]. So we just made them up," Palmer continues in a slightly more serious tone, citing Ronnie Burkett and Peter Jackson's *Meet The Feebles* as inspirations for his group's connection to the macabre—their puppeteer idols, if you will.

**"I don't remember a lot of death scenes in the puppet theatre canon. In fact, that's pretty well true [that there really aren't any]. So we just made them up."**

JUDD PALMER  
FAMOUS PUPPET DEATH SCENES PUPPETEER

"There's a bunch of things appealing about [puppetry]," he notes. "It's sort of all the art-forms combined. There's sculpture, connections to theatre. [We feel] the world has not yet fully explored the possibility of puppetry for adults. We found there's a lot to be done in there that people aren't necessarily doing. It was our own weird little niche."

And it's a niche that they've found popular, as they're now onto their seventh mainstage production in the last decade.

*Death Scenes* originally grew out of a moment in the Old Trout's last work, *Pinocchio*, a darker, Grimm brothers 19th-century version wherein Pinocchio goes nuts and smashes Jiminy Cricket with a hammer

in the first five minutes. Palmer fondly recalls the conflicting emotions he and the other Trouts felt in the theatre every time they did the death scene: the shock, the humour, the sadness, and the annoyance.

"It was this sort of key theatrical accomplishment that the audience doesn't know what to feel," he explains. "It was our favourite bit of the play, and we thought, 'Well, what if we just made a play with nothing but our favourite bits, instead of wasting time on the bric-a-brac of "plot" and "character development."'" And thus *Famous Puppet Death Scenes* was born.

The show delivers with its titular promise, spanning the full spectrum of marionette massacres, with 22 sketches in all.

"[If] it strikes to the very core of your being, if you see your own soul mirrored back at you, if it forces the audience to consider their own mortality—that's what makes a puppet's death truly famous."

Palmer doesn't ever seem worried about pre-conceived audience notions towards puppetry or its exact location within the realm of actual theatre. But that could be because, unlike the Old Trouts themselves, it's very difficult to call their work childish.

"The kids love it. The kids love to be shocked. Usually, it's the adults that are offended," he laughs.

But with the *Death Scenes* tour finally wrapping up in a few months, the Old Trouts aren't looking for some downtime. They're already thinking of their next project—and its new location.

"We're moving to Mexico, to Guanajato, a region famous for its mummies," Palmer states matter-of-factly. "The groundwater has some kind of odd constitution so that when you're buried there, you mummify. So they have an absurd collection of the undead down there for your perusal. It's [the perfect place] for us: something halfway between alive and dead. That's a puppet."

In other words, the Old Trouts won't be suddenly maturing anytime soon.



# Faunts find new fans through concocting their own 8-bit symphony

## musicpreview

### The Faunts

Part of Video Games Live and the Video Games Live After Party  
Sunday, 17 February  
Jubilee Auditorium at 8pm, The Starlite Room at 9pm

KRISTINA DE GUZMAN  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

If being given the opportunity to provide music scores to some short films wasn't cool enough, it's undoubtedly cooler to have one of those reworked songs chosen to be in a positively reviewed, award-winning video game—not to mention one owned by over 1.5 million people by the time it had reached its sixth week of infancy.

"M4 Pt. II", written by local experimental band The Faunts, is the track playing during the closing credits of *Mass Effect*, a sci-fi-like action role-playing video game created by local game developer BioWare for the Xbox 360 and one of the best-selling video games of 2007. This weekend, the quintet is playing twice—first at the Jubilee Auditorium to premiere "M4 Pt. II" for Video Games Live, and following right after at the Starlite Room to perform a full set.

It would be perfectly understandable for any musician to jump at the chance to play a video game just so he can catch his own song, but surprisingly for some of The Faunts, including bassist Scott Gallant, playing *Mass Effect* remains unchecked on their to-do list.

"I don't think we're skilled enough



video gamers to finish the game," Gallant modestly admits. "But we've seen it on YouTube. You can search it, and they'll have the credits on there, so we've seen that, so we know what it looks like and what it sounds like."

Originally meant to provide the background music to some Film and Video Association films, "M4 Pt. II" and a number of other tracks were redone to provide the repertoire for the band's EP *M4* before

*Mass Effect* came into play.

With so many copies of the game being sold, there are bound to be gamers who find themselves digging The Faunts' track, doing a little research, and subsequently, buying *M4*. Gallant doesn't quite have a story that fits that formula, but people have let the band know that they've noticed.

"On our MySpace page, if you look down on the comments, there are people from all over the world who have said, 'Oh, I heard your song on

*Mass Effect*—I'm checking you guys out,'" Gallant explains. "It's been very cool to see."

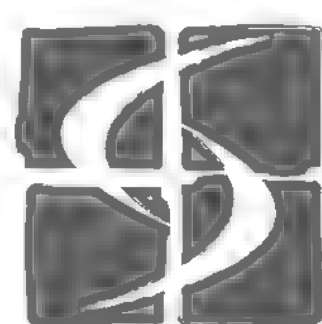
Things have improved immensely for The Faunts since their cross-country American tour two years ago to promote their last album, *High Expectations/Low Results*, was suddenly cancelled due to visa problems.

Fortunately for Gallant, who joined the band only a year and a half ago, he didn't have to deal with the hassles of

seeing a well-planned tour go down the drain. Hopefully it stays that way when the band makes another attempt to tour the States this summer.

"We're planning to tour a little bit in July; we're probably going to tour the east coast, and then in August, we're probably going to play the west coast."

The Faunts are also in the process of recording their next full-length album which Gallant reveals is more than halfway done.



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### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF & PUBLISHER

The *Gateway* is accepting applications for the position of Editor-in-Chief and Publisher for the 2008/2009 publishing year. The term runs from 1 May 2008 to 30 April 2009 and pays \$1950.51/mo\*. Applicants must plan to be enrolled at the U of A in at least one class per semester for the 2008/2009 school year; must be available to work varying hours; must have computer and layout skills; and will preferably have been a *Gateway* editor, or possess equivalent leadership and editorial experience.\*\* Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and a portfolio to **Gateway Business Manager Steve Smith (492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca)** by noon on Thursday, 6 March 2008. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

\* Pay will be adjusted for CPI over the summer and may increase

\*\* Complete descriptions (subject to change) are available at www.gateway.ualberta.ca/gjs





## They built this *City* on honest acting

Compelling acting and a moving script propel *Shining City* to greatness

### theatrereview

#### Shining City

Runs until 24 February

Written by Conor McPherson

Directed by James MacDonald

Starring Tom Wood, Caroline Cave, Jason Carnew, and Shaun Smyth  
Citadel Theatre

BRYAN SAUNDERS  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

In his Tony-Award-nominated and critically acclaimed play *Shining City*, playwright Conor McPherson questions if things are ever as good, or if people are ever as truthful, as they first appear to be.

Of course, this in turn forces one to question whether or not McPherson's writing is truly as remarkable as critics in New York, London, and elsewhere claim it is.

Simply put, the answer is yes. Not only does the Canadian premiere of *Shining City* haunt you with its honest, true-to-life dialogue, but it also makes incredibly poignant observations about humanity in the process.

Within the confines of the play itself, parallels can be drawn between one person and another. The main characters of Ian (Shaun Smyth) and John (Tom Wood), for example, are both dealing with feelings of

isolation, facing a crisis of faith, and desperately seeking meaning in their life.

Wood delivers an absolutely moving performance with his portrayal of John, a recent widower who believes he's seeing the ghost of his dead wife. While it takes several minutes before the character of John actually starts growing on you, once Wood invades your psyche with his acting, he never quite lets go.

**Not only does the Canadian premiere of *Shining City* haunt you with its honest, true-to-life dialogue, but it also makes incredibly poignant observations about humanity in the process.**

Likewise, Smyth in the role of Ian is remarkable. He's expertly plays an ex-priest-turned-therapist who's giving John some psychological help and has ghosts of his own that he needs to deal with. Smyth's character also takes some time to grow on you, but perhaps this is because both Wood and Smyth aren't trying to force the audience to accept

the reality of their roles, instead allowing them to gradually discover these characters as being real.

Both actors seem to deeply understand how important it is that they portray their characters with absolute honesty and realism, since McPherson's play doesn't lend itself to the overdramatic interpretations that, say, an Oscar Wilde farce might.

Production designer Narda McCarroll also appreciates the importance of realism in *Shining City* and crafts her world accordingly. The lights, set, and sound all add to the sense of truth essential to this play, while being very careful not to distract from the very powerful acting. And while there are some truly heart-wrenching moments that will touch anyone with a human bone in their body, there's still an abundance of laughter to be had.

Like the real world and the real people that it's intended to reflect, this play is full of ups and downs, with audiences crying one second and falling out of their seat with laughter the next. This is especially evident during the play's powerful, human climax.

All of the elements of a good play truly do come together in the Citadel's production of *Shining City*: believable script, expert acting, and an amazing world of set, lights and sound. Theatre critics from all over the world are absolutely right when they say that this is one play that shines.

## Burnout Paradise steers into destructive fun

### gamereview

#### Burnout Paradise

Available Now on Xbox 360 and PS3

Developed by Criterion Games

KYLE YASINSKI  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Get off the roads: Criterion Games' latest installment to their award-winning *Burnout* series has just made it out onto the roadways, bringing chaos, carnage, and overall mayhem and destruction to the city streets. Welcome to *Paradise*, bitches.

For those of you who've never played a *Burnout* game before, the acclaimed series isn't like your average racer. If you're looking for a game where you can finely tune your vehicle then simply run it in closed conditions, this is the wrong game for you; the real focus of *Burnout* is vehicular chaos. The Showtime destruction mode turns your car into a flying metal tool of mayhem, and the other race events not only involve getting to the finish line, but taking out your opponents or

surviving longer than them.

In this latest iteration in the series, gone are the bland menu screens of old, where you picked and chose your events from a list. Now, the menu is an enormous open world where you can crash into and destroy almost anything. Want to start an event? Just pull the gas, and the break at any intersection. Want to start an enormous crash, causing millions of dollars in damage? Pull the two bumpers and enter Showtime mode, where you can kill everything in sight by simply crushing them with your incredibly punishing vehicle.

All of this is great, but the place where the game really shines is during online play. The connection is seamless, making it easy to pull up your friends list and invite up to seven other players whom you can race with, crash into, hunt down, or be hunted by. All of this also occurs with extremely minimal load time, with the entire game being ready in a matter of seconds, and absolutely no other wait periods aside from connecting to the Internet, which itself only takes a moment.

Visually, the game is beautiful. *Paradise City* is as gorgeous as it is enormous. The

city is also extremely detailed and varied, so you're not going to get lost on a mess of similarly built roads. However, the visuals reach new heights during a crash. There's nothing better than the pure joy of watching your shiny new car crumple and smash into an undriveable heap or seeing it do mid-air somersaults until it crashes into a bus.

The audio supplements the game very well. As your car is slowly destroyed, you can hear the smashing of the glass and the crunching of the metal or the explosions as you hit other vehicles at insane speeds. The soundtrack—featuring a large variety of licensed tracks, from the fitting "Paradise City" by Guns and Roses to "Fake it" by Seether and Twisted Sister's "I Wanna Rock"—mostly works well to set the tone for the game; there are a few odd choices, such as Avril Lavigne's "Girlfriend," but overall the soundtrack works out very well.

If you're looking for a game composed almost entirely of carnage and destruction, then *Burnout Paradise* is the perfect game for you. There's no better outlet to vent your vehicular frustrations.

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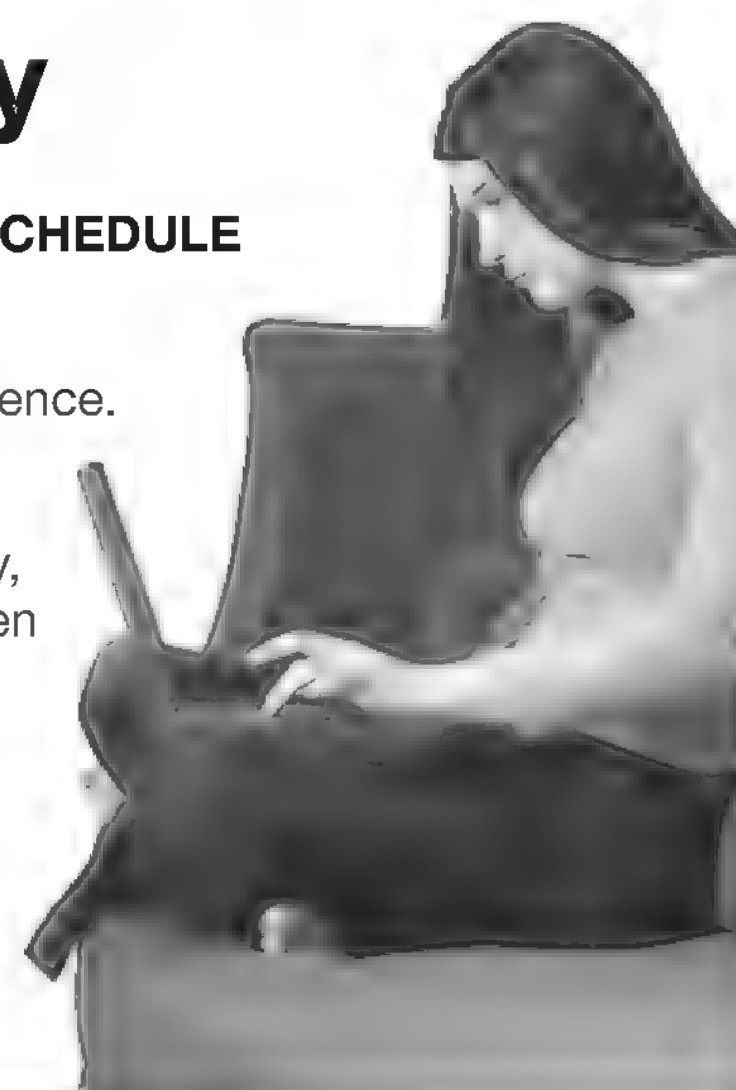
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# Ensemble works well, but Lawrence shouldn't be welcomed home

## filmreview

### Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins

Now Playing

Directed by Malcom D Lee

Starring Martin Lawrence, James Earl Jones, Michael Clarke Duncan, and Cedric the Entertainer

SEAN STEELS

Arts & Entertainment Writer

*Black Knight. National Security. Big Momma's House II. Wild Hogs.* If you recall that the commonality between all of these movies—besides that they're absolutely terrible—is that each stars Martin Lawrence, you've already had more fun jogging your movie trivia muscles than you could watching his latest performance in *Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins*.

The plot centres around RJ Stevens (Lawrence), a successful talk-show host with some remarkable similarities to Dr Phil, but known to his family as Roscoe Jenkins. RJ, along

with his fiancée, a brutally cruel and crazy ex-*Survivor* star named Bianca Kittles (Joy Bryant) and son Jamaal (Damani Roberts) head home for his parents' 50th anniversary. Presto, a dynamic is set up that dominates the rest of the film: RJ is torn between the ratings-hungry ways of his bride-to-be, and his son's need to have a loving relationship with his family and father. At home waits Papa Jenkins (James Earl Jones), RJ's loveable but wrestler-sized brother Otis (Michael Clarke Duncan), his childhood rival Clyde (Cedric The Entertainer), his high school crush Lucinda (Nicole Ari Parker), and the rest of the family.

As expected, big-town swank clashes with homegrown sensibility amid a sea of black stereotypes and a clichéd romantic-comedy love triangle between RJ, Bianca, and Lucinda. Everyone knows this worn out, predictable comedic template: at the last minute, our misled protagonist realizes the error of his ways and that nothing will ever be as important as his family. The crazy bitch gets dumped for the high school sweetie, and a slow clap

ensues while a stone-faced Martin Lawrence embraces James Earl Jones, the reason for their father/son conflict having finally been revealed and laid to rest. Along with the characters, the plot was snatched clean out of *How to Make Movies for Dummies*.

Like a roller coaster, the film's hilarity rises and falls. One moment, three minutes of film are wasted on Martin Lawrence's idea of a hilarious orgasm face. The next moment, the banter between RJ's family is enough to make even a tight-lipped critic crack up. Lawrence is sprayed by a skunk and breaks into pathetic, slapstick tumbles. Then, again, the moment is revived by a funny one-liner from his cousin. It's not until halfway through the movie that you realize these ups and downs coincide perfectly with Lawrence's presence on camera: whenever he's present, the funny ceases to be.

The plot might be clichéd, but writer/director Malcolm Lee has made an honest attempt to pull the movie above the status of regular box-office fodder. He incorporates strong themes of family values, questions the



authenticity and ethics of the bling culture that RJ has come to embrace, and even touches lightly on the issue of masculinity and what it means to be a man. The rest of the cast put in the same effort, each managing to give their characters a little heart and motivation, despite the stereotypes they were based on.

Unfortunately, there's no such effort from Lawrence. He spends the

movie portraying his character with the same zest and pazazz you'd expect from watered-down milk. It's sad that the efforts of decent actors like James Earl Jones, Michael Clarke Duncan, and Cedric the Entertainer are dragged down by a flat-line performance on centre stage, but that's the sad reality of *Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins*. I smell *Big Mamma's House III* in the works.

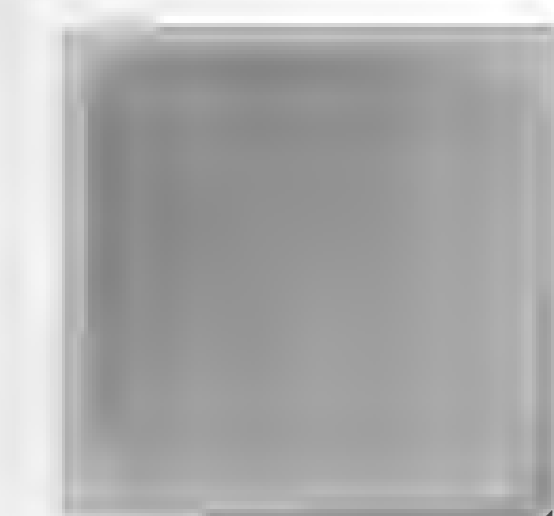
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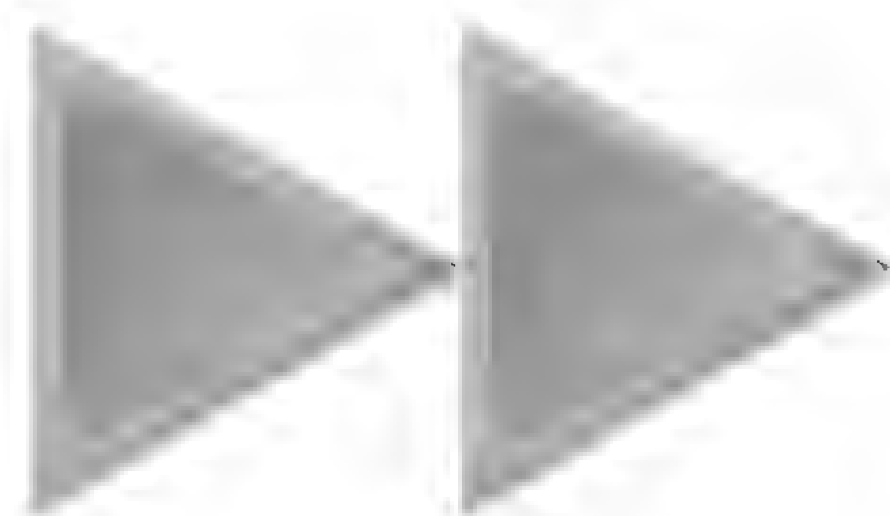
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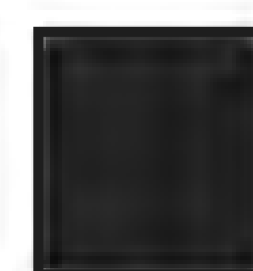


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# Being young is, like, so complicated

*While We're Young* makes for a puzzling but ultimately satisfying show

## theatre review

### While We're Young

Runs 7-16 February

Written by Don Hannah

Directed by Kim McCaw

Starring the BFA acting class of 2008

Timms Centre for the Arts

EDMON ROTEA

Arts & Entertainment Staff

Ensemble films such as *Crash*, *Bobby*, or Robert Altman's *Shortcuts* feature complex plots and narratives—mental puzzles for the audience to figure out over the course of the movie. Studio Theatre's latest production, *While We're Young*, is one such challenging puzzle for the viewer to piece together.

Created for the Department of Drama's BFA acting class of 2008, the play explores the recurring challenges and adversities experienced by families: love, joy, birth, death, grief, and the atrocities and hardships of war. Director Kim McCaw outlines in the program's director notes how all plays at their core concern "the exploration of the life of a family." *While We're Young* certainly achieves these goals, especially with a cast of over a dozen characters and subplots that span more than 130 years—including six historical periods in Canadian history.

One of the most challenging aspects of any ensemble piece is conveying a clear and underlying narrative. Most conventional plays subscribe to a formulaic plot structure, but *While We're Young* attempts to break free of such conventions, with mixed results.

One interesting aspect of the play is playwright Don Hannah's representation of the progression of time. While most films and plays have a narrative that progressively goes forward, the first half of *While We're Young* regresses in time—moving backwards from the present day to the last quarter of the 18th century.

The play begins with a brother and sister reminiscing about a close friend killed while on tour in Afghanistan. Soon afterwards, the scene dissolves to a trio of hippies contemplating a



LAUREN STIEGLITZ

**TRIPPIN' ON YOUTH** The '60s are one of the times visited in *While We're Young*

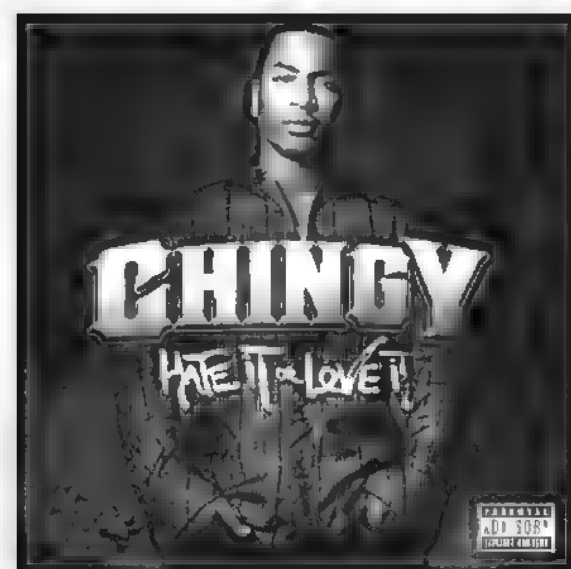
move to Vancouver, followed by a brief musical scene of a female duet (circa 1920s) singing a piece about "falling in love" while they're young. While the costumes and dialogue provide revealing expository information about the historical period being represented—sometimes determining the importance of such scenes and events in the grand scheme of the play—how the characters relate to each other and understanding the play's underlying narrative is a feat that's both daunting and confusing for the viewer to digest and contemplate.

Despite the difficult plot and narrative, *While We're Young* features a minimalist set design, consisting of a few trees with fallen leaves, a large rock, a backdrop with changing multi-coloured designs, and a few props. Aside from the constant addition and deletion of various historical-period items, the play takes the

audience on a journey from a park in modern-day Edmonton to a night-time sentry shift in the trenches of the 1917 Battle of Paschendale, the barren fields of Afghanistan, and a farm house in 1870s Nova Scotia without any major prop shifts or blackouts for set changes.

*While We're Young* just seems to flow through its varied scenarios, with the most impressive spectacle being the brief recreation of a World War I firefight—a scene consisting of complete darkness, flashing lights, smoke, and the sound effects of explosions, gun fire, and yelling soldiers.

Despite the complex plot of *While We're Young*, the second half of the play provides a gradual build up and a revelation about the characters' shared history. Even with the play's complicated structure, at least all the pieces of the puzzle fall into place, providing a satisfying resolution.



## featured album

### Chingy

*Hate It Or Love It*

DTP Recordings

JOHN KMECH

Arts & Entertainment Staff

On occasion, artistic works are produced that are of such unprecedented magnitude that they transcend genre, medium, and perhaps even time to become cornerstones of the human experience. Masterpieces like Bizet's *Carmen* or Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* must be appreciated for their contributions not only to music, but to human history. Similarly, the unforgettable hip-hop operas of St. Louis hoodstar Chingy will age gracefully past the 21st century.

Boasting a title that forces us to confront the intrinsic dichotomies present in our culture, the man responsible for "Right Thurr" provides a catalyst for social upheaval via lyrical prowess with his latest

rhythmical epic *Hate It or Love It*. On the boisterous title track, he evokes nihilistic Dadaism and post-Ghetto *Fabulous* *Fabulous* in questioning life's meaning when he declares, "I don't give a fuck if you bitches don't like me." Elsewhere, on the aptly titled "Gimme Dat," he states, "I got my pockets all swoll, big bank rolls / A bad lil mamma, and she ready to go / I'm like, I just want that gushy / Gimme dat gushy." Indeed, wouldn't our materialistic world be better if we all demanded more gushy despite the abundance of Benjamins in our pockets?

Unlike other, more uncouth rappers, Ching-a-Ling promotes progressive social values in his lyrics,

proclaiming that fly-ass bitches with Coke-bottle bodies should be treated only with admiration and respect, while adding that he "feels bad for you fags" in a powerful statement against homophobia and the oppression of gays. This admitted balla' and alleged high rolla' isn't entirely selfless though, as exhibited on "Check My Swag," which alludes to the rapper's superiority in swag-showcasing endeavours as compared to fake players.

But perhaps his most profoundly intellectual rhythms are found in "Roll On Em," where the chorus urges the audience to "throw some candy on that bitch," a manifesto open to vast interpretations. While many believed that he couldn't improve on his flawless, tasteless 2006 release *Hoodstar*, the maestro born Howard Bailey Jr once again demonstrates his adeptness at pushing the envelope of the lowest common denominator.

Listen to tracks from *Hate It or Love It* on the Editor's Playlist at [www.thegatewayonline.ca](http://www.thegatewayonline.ca)

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RYAN SHIPPELT

**YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO CRAWL BEFORE YOU CAN SKATE** The Pandas will start their postseason efforts with a series against the Regina Cougars, a team they've already beaten four times this year.

## Hockey Pandas take first step to defend national title

PAUL OWEN  
Managing Editor

As the Pandas hockey team begins the do-or-die portion of their defence of last year's national title, they'll do so with a much less experienced roster than they're used to.

The Pandas (21-2-1) lost last season's top four scorers in Canada West during the off-season and have filled those positions with a crop of promising rookies. While the Pandas suffered early in the year—all three of their losses came in the first semester—they have turned it around by going undefeated in the second half, a feat head coach Howie Draper credits to growing maturity.

"The thing about a young team and younger players is that the consistency just isn't there," he said. "We've got some very skilled players—[like] Alana Cabana and Cami Wooster and Andrea Boras—a lot of the young players have proven that they've got some tremendous skill; however, you can have skill, but being mentally tough and bringing your A-game every single opportunity that you have on the ice is something that you very rarely see among young players."

"The fortunate thing is that I could have said that in the first half—that our rookies didn't have that consistency—but I really feel that in the last three weeks or so, they're starting to understand what it takes."

Draper also credited the return of veteran goaltender Holly Tarleton, who backstopped Alberta to the national championship last season, with providing a calming presence in the locker room and with aiding starting goalie Dana Vinge, who has shown dramatic improvement in the second half of the season.

"Dana's game [...] has improved dramatically over the first half, and as a result, it's more likely that we're getting the first goal, and we're not chasing," he said. "In the last couple of weekends, we've been finding, for whatever reason, our focus around the net is greater, and we're putting the puck away."

"Dana's our number one right now,

and in the second half, she's earned the opportunity to be that, and I can't see a change. I'm quite confident that she'll be able to do the job for us."

The first hurdle for the Pandas in the post-season will be the Regina Cougars (12-10-2). Alberta has beaten Regina each of their four previous games this year: 4-2, 5-2, 7-2, and 4-2.

But while Draper admitted that their perfect record over the Cougars might give his team a bit of a mental advantage, he warned that Regina had yet to reach their potential in the matchups between the two teams, and that they'll be a better opponent now.

"[Being 4-0] gives you a little bit of confidence, but that confidence has to be tempered because I

personally believe that they have way more than they've shown in the last four games we've played against them," he explained. "I think they're a sleeper team; I think they have as much of a chance as Manitoba and ourselves—and maybe even Saskatchewan—for winning Canada West, so we can't sit on the fact that we won four games against them."

"They're one of the faster teams in the league, I think. They've got some very skilled forwards that we have to be aware of, and their goaltending has been relatively strong, considering."

The two teams will face off at 3pm on Friday and Saturday afternoons, with a third game going at the same time on Sunday, if necessary.

## Bears to welcome familiar playoff foes

Alberta men prepare to meet Saskatchewan in playoffs for fifth straight year

DEREK BATES  
Sports Writer

The Bears and Huskies will play another chapter this weekend in what is becoming one of the most interesting rivalries in Canada West basketball. The closely matched teams will face off in the first round of the Central Division playoffs, making this the fifth year in a row that the two teams have met in the post-season. Saskatchewan (12-10), in third place in the division this year, have ended Alberta's (16-6) season for two straight years.

"I think Saskatchewan are confident they can beat us," Bears head coach Don Horwood said. "We're very evenly matched all across the board. They're a veteran team; they've been through this before—I just think it's going to boil down to whichever team plays the best."

"It's really wide open; they could beat us two straight, we could beat them two straight, [or] it could go three games. I think it's too close to call, but I think, certainly from my perspective, I'm happy with the position we're in."

Both series between the two teams this year were split—though the Huskies won by greater margins—and Saskatchewan head coach Greg Jockims

also thinks the squads are evenly matched heading into this contest.

"We know each other very well—we've played a number of times in the last years in the playoffs—and we've both had a fair bit of success against each other," he said. "They know our stuff very, very well, and we know their stuff very, very well."

**"We're very evenly matched all across the board."**

DON HORWOOD  
BEARS HEAD COACH

"I think it all comes down to all the intangible things: the loose balls, rebounds, hustle plays, and who's shooting the ball better."

Almost certain to be shooting the ball well is Saskatchewan forward Andrew Spagrud, who broke the Canada West career scoring record in the Huskies' final regular-season game against the Calgary Dinos, bringing his all-time points total to 2182.

"He's been a thorn in our side for five years," Horwood admitted. "He's a great player, and he's a good

competitor, and he's an honest competitor."

Still, Jockims doesn't think that the scoring record itself is going to be a big factor in this weekend's action.

"It is more of just a feather in Andrew's cap," he said. "I don't think it means a whole lot in terms of what the team is going to do or has done."

Despite some inconsistent play during the season, the Bears feel they have good momentum going into the post-season, having won seven of their final eight games, including a west coast road trip where they beat UBC and Victoria.

"I think our team is playing a lot more consistently now than they were earlier in the year," Horwood said. "We're as good right now as we've been all year long, and it's a good time to be going into the playoffs."

"I think we have the pieces. The main thing we have to focus on working on [is] we've been inconsistent in our work ethic. If we work hard all weekend, in however many games there happens to be, then I like our chances."


Games will go Friday and Saturday at 7pm in the Main Gym. If necessary, they'll also play at 4pm on Sunday. All three games will be webcast on [www.bears.ualberta.ca](http://www.bears.ualberta.ca).



PETE YEE

**UP AND AWAY** Justin VanLoo was unopposed on the way to the net on Saturday against Lethbridge. The Bears expect the Huskies to be much tougher.





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## SPORTS SHORTS

By Robin Collum

### Giant-killers

The Pandas volleyball game on Saturday against the Manitoba Bisons (18-2) was stunning not in that Alberta won, but for how handily they did it. The Pandas (14-6), ranked fourth in CIS, put the Bisons—number one in the country—off their usually bulletproof game and won in three straight sets: 25-22, 25-23, 25-23. Alberta had seven team blocks, and Tiffany Proudfoot led the Pandas in kills with ten.

The next day was not such a happy one for Alberta, however. The Pandas drew the game out to five sets—winning the first and fourth—before committing an attacking error and losing 15-13 in the fifth. Jocelyn Blair made 16 kills.

The loss means that the Pandas have to go on the road for the first round of playoffs. They'll face Trinity Western in the first round this weekend in Langley, BC.

### And first in our hearts

The volleyball Bears (16-2) won both their games on the weekend. On the road, playing Trinity Western (8-10), Alberta beat the Spartans 3-1 on Friday and 3-0 on Saturday. Joel Schmuland and Tim Gourlay had twelve kills each on the first night. Gourlay repeated on Saturday, leading the Bears with another dozen finishes.

For the fourth year in a row, the Bears have finished the regular season with the best record in the conference. Aside from bragging rights, first place means Alberta has a bye through the first round of the playoffs. They can relax and practice this



CYRIL BALITBIT

**HAMMER TIME** Manitoba's defence wasn't good enough on Saturday to stop the Pandas' balanced offence, but the Bisons were on their game Sunday.

weekend before hosting the Final Four. They're also guaranteed a berth at nationals because Canada West will be sending four teams this year.

### You made a fool of me

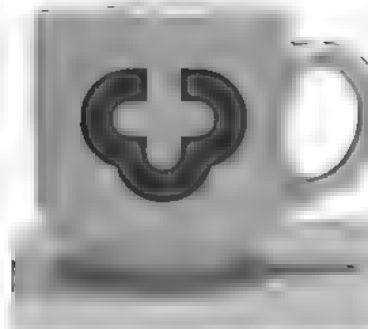
I predicted, in print, that the Pandas basketball team (17-5) would win both of their games against Lethbridge by 15 points. Apparently they all hate me, because they only beat the 'Horns (5-17) by 13 on Friday night. I take the 69-56 win as a personal insult. Fortunately, they made up for it by winning 77-62 the next night.

The series was the last regular-season action that graduating players Carly McEneaney and Paige Gaudreau will see, and the two made sure to go out on a high note. McEneaney led the game in points on Friday with 17 and added ten the next night. Gaudreau contributed six on Friday and seven Saturday.

The wins moved the Pandas up a spot to fourth in the CIS rankings, but more importantly, the sweep means that they've clinched first in the Central Division. They now have an extra week of rest before facing the winner of a Calgary-Saskatchewan series this weekend.

# Bob Cole and his play-by-play have passed their expiry date

DAVE ROBERTS



The Peak  
(Simon Fraser)

**B**URNABY (CUP)—Alright, I just want to make this point clear: I love old people. I love my grandparents, and I loved serving the elderly working at a cozy café in my native Deep Cove, BC. Hell, even my dad is pushing past 60. Nonetheless, I'm about to rip into a geriatric media legend.

Bob Cole, it's time to retire.

He's widely revered throughout Canada, bringing us the calls of over 20 Stanley Cup Finals and the Olympics, in addition to his *Hockey Night in Canada* duties. Sadly, Cole has faltered over the past few years.

Many members of the sports media seem to shy away from calling out one of their own. I've listened to Don Taylor of the Team 1040 in Vancouver defend Cole to fans upset with his rather biased play-by-play. Taylor usually states Cole's glorious calls of the past as his defence and downplays the old man's mistakes.

Unfortunately for Cole, we live in a society in which the question "what have you done for me lately?" has become ingrained in the minds of the population. In the world of sports especially, this question reigns as truly

as the North Star does in our sky.

As sports fans, we rarely give athletes who are past their prime years a break. We shouldn't give Bob Cole a break for his declining abilities.

Anyone who watches Hockey Night in Canada knows what I'm talking about. Almost as unnerving as his partner Harry Neale calling Kevin Bieksa "Kevin Bies-ka," Cole calls Markus Naslund, "Mats Naslund," after the former Montreal Canadian.

I don't know if Cole realizes he's doing it, simply because he's done it so many times now. Either he doesn't read the media guide before the game to get familiar with the players, or the now 49-year-old Mats Naslund apparently still has wheels.

For me, when I think Cole's recent performances, I think of the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin. During one of the games, the following happened: "And here comes Sakic, skating through the neutral zone with the puck," Cole rambled.

When Cole uttered this, Joe Sakic was already behind the net and in the process of passing the puck to Todd Bertuzzi. I know there wasn't a delay between the audio and the video feed because Bertuzzi then passed the puck to Jarome Iginla, who buried it. To this, Cole simply said "Scores!" after a few seconds of silence.

I turned to my friends and burst out laughing. I wasn't laughing at the fact that Bertuzzi had actually made a play; I was laughing at the fact that Cole had just bequeathed me with

such material to use in my crusade against his shoddy commentary.

As the years have progressed, Cole has become frequently more biased towards his beloved Maple Leafs. During the 2007 Cup run by the Ottawa Senators, his dislike of the Sens became apparent. With every goal scored on Ottawa, Cole would exclaim with glee as if Dave Keon had just jumped onto the ice wearing only hockey gloves while riding his hockey stick Tiger Williams-style.

The CBC was inundated with complaints from fans across the country, but they didn't work. He kept doing what he does best: loving his Leafs and beating on the Sens.

During the 2002 Olympic gold medal men's game, Cole added himself into the lore of that championship. When the fourth goal of the game came, Cole was caught so off-guard that he yelled "Gore!" In this case, "gore" was a mixture of the words "goal" and "score."

At the time, I laughed it off because I was so exhilarated that Canada was off to its first gold medal in 50 years, but now that I look back at it, it was indeed gore—Cole butchered the call.

Bob Cole: please, sir, do us all a favour and retire. You aren't the Pope, so you don't need to die to be relieved of office. Hand the keys over to Jim Hughson and walk away semi-gracefully. If I can find a sponsor, I'll even come to your retirement dinner and roast you like they did for William Shatner.



# Only pride on the line for Bears against T-Birds

PAUL OWEN  
Managing Editor

With a first-round playoff bye and home-ice advantage sewn up, the Golden Bears hockey team (20-4-2) finds itself in an unusual position as they try to play spoiler against the UBC Thunderbirds (11-15-0) this weekend.

With both teams playing their final two games of the season, UBC sits only a single point ahead of Regina (9-14-3) for fifth place in Canada West. Both the T-Birds and the Cougars have clinched their playoff spots, but the team that finishes ahead in the standings will travel to Winnipeg to play Manitoba (12-12-2), while the sixth-place finisher gets a date with the red-hot Calgary Dinos (15-7-4), who have lost only twice in their past 15 games.

"It'll be a tough weekend because [UBC's] still battling with Regina to see who finishes fifth or sixth," Bears head coach Eric Thurston said. "To be honest with you, with the way Calgary is playing, it's going to be tough going through there. Whoever plays Manitoba, it's going to be tough, but if you were to weigh things, that would be a match-up where anything can happen."

The first time the Thunderbirds and Golden Bears faced off, UBC brought out the brooms at home and sent Alberta packing with a pair of losses to open the season. And while the Bears exacted their revenge in November, turning the tables on the T-Birds with a sweep of their own, Thurston noted that UBC could still cause the Bears some problems.

"Their goaltending when they've been here [has been] very solid—Thuot was very, very good—and we



FILE PHOTO: MIKE OTTO

**MAD DASH FOR THE FINISH LINE** Coming off a disappointing loss, the Bears want to finish the regular season off with a win against the Thunderbirds at home.

struggled with [Darrell] May, [Marc] Desloges, and [Curtis] Billsten's line, and we have to do a good job shutting down them because that's obviously a huge part of their offence," he said. "If we're standing still and we're over-handling the puck, they'll be able to check us [and] have turnovers."

"We have to use our speed, drive their defence, work them down low, and, when we're playing five-on-five, get pucks through from the points and win those battles."

With their playoff spot locked up,

Alberta may have little to play for this weekend, but after a bye-week-turned-make-up-game last week saw the Bears drop a 2-1 decision to Calgary, Thurston is expecting his team to build some momentum.

"I think we have to start getting ready for playoffs. We didn't have a very good week in practice last week. I thought, mentally, we took it off, and we have to start getting ready to be mentally ready for playoffs," he explained.

A large part of that preparation will be the team's continued adjust-

ment to the absence of captain Harlan Anderson—the top-scoring defence-man in the conference—who continues to suffer from a knee injury sustained three weeks ago at home against Regina.

Filling Anderson's spot on the bench is third-year Grant MacEwan transfer Aaron Agnew. The 6'3", 225lb rearguard from Prince George has impressed Thurston with his physical presence in his two games thus far.

"Aaron Agnew has done a tremendous job," Thurston said.

"Aaron, in Saskatchewan, came in, played solid, played physical, moved the puck well—just did all the little things that he needed to do. He really played well, I thought also, against Calgary, and he had a great hit—a clean, solid, hard hit—on Jared Aulin, and it rocked Aulin pretty good."

The Bears face off against the T-Birds Friday and Saturday at 7:30pm. Saturday's game will be seniors' night for fifth-years Anderson, Tim Krymusa, Ryan Stempfle, and Richard Hamula.

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colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, HP Scanjet flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Coolscan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images. Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of **FENCE**, **Joanna**, **Kepler** and **Whitney**. The Manitoban is the Gateway's sister paper and we do our best, though not in that way, The Gateway's games of chance are Professor Layton's Daily Quiz, Coolest Quiz, and Mario Quiz.

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Cover illustration by Mike Kendrick and Mike Otto

“There were thoughts on changing the VP (Student Life)’s title to ‘Fun & Games’ or ‘Arts & Crafts.’

COUNCIL FORUM

Written by Kirsten Goruk

Students' Council usually meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 11 March. As per usual, there will be no food offered, and to this day that still kind of upsets us. We miss the hummus.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PRESENTATION

Presented by Engineering councillor Prem Erubetine, the current issues facing international students were discussed. The services available to international students were explained and included an exclusive email network and the Transitions orientation program. Other topics covered included issues regarding housing and residence for students and the effect of the differential on the additional fees charged to international students to offset the rising cost of tuition.

Erubetine explained that he's currently investigating a recent rise in the differential. He's concerned by the fact that he has yet to find a government

paper trail that explains the increase.

At the end of the presentation, President Janz explained that the SU is actively thinking about the ideal vision for international students.

FINANCIAL HISTORY PRESENTATION

SU general manager Bill Smith covered the financial growths and trends from 1984 to present. Smith explained where the SU is doing well and what's planned for the future. While the SU will be paying for the most recent SUB expansion until 2013, projects for the future include a focus on programming needs for students, provision of student space, and the challenge of attracting student volunteers. Smith also cautioned the SU on possible future funding setbacks such as enrollment declines and illegalization of mandatory student fees.

During the question period that followed, Janz answered a question about the current state of Powerplant negotiations. He explained that following a recent meeting with U of A architects, work has begun on plans to turn the building into a versatile space for students. He said that he would have further information following the next meeting, which is scheduled for 25 February. With interest from stakeholders, Janz has hopes of being able to provide the space to students without

going into the red.

QUESTION PERIOD

Janz answered a question regarding a rumour that had surfaced about students' ability to pay tuition by credit card next academic year. Janz said that the University is investigating the issue. If implemented, the University would save money on bank charges. He went on to say that the SU has a number of concerns, including the fact that 50 per cent of students pay by credit card and many simply don't have the funds to pay their tuition outright each semester. A meeting with the Registrar's Office is scheduled for this Thursday.

Janz also responded to a question about the still-lingering Lister Hall and Residence Services issue, specifically where the proposed changes came from. He explained that to his knowledge, members of Residence Services were consulted before the order came down but at no point were students involved.

Another inquiry directed to Janz requested a general update on the Residence Services situation. He answered that while the end result was a success, the trust between students and student leaders and the administration has been shattered. Janz explained that tensions are still high, and there will be a follow-up.

CORRECTION & HOUSEKEEPING

In a recent case of shoddy student journalism, one of the authors of part three of the Gateway's "The Student Body" feature was misattributed as Jonathan Taves. If no amateur-hour issues had arisen, we wouldn't have fucked up, and the correct author, Tom Wagner, would have been credited.

But can you really blame us? Have you seen those two guys? They're both tall, lanky, strapping young lads. Okay, truth be told, Jon is the dark and handsome, mysterious type, while Tom (also known as T-Wag) is a vision of Nordic beauty, second only to Odin in days of yore. Silly of us to confuse them. It's been emotional.

Forgive us, Tom, for this egregious error. We would like to apologize to you, your family, your future sons, and your future sons' sons. May the pain we caused not last the ages.

Furthermore, we would like to apologize to our readers. I know this type of misinformation isn't what you expect from a fine publication like the Gateway. When you pick up a copy, you expect a certain *je ne sais quoi*. If you weren't aware, that's French for awesome newspaper.

We'll be taking Reading Week to reflect on the error of our ways. The next issue will be published on Tuesday, 26 February. We understand that you're not mad, just disappointed.

STREETERS

afterdark

Compiled and photographed by Ryan Heise and Mike Otto

Today marks the release of the Gateway's annual Purity Test, with Reading Week right around the corner. What's the most impure thing you have planned for Reading Week?



Logan McIntosh  
Arts II



Adam Korol  
Arts IV



Emma Eckhardt  
Arts IV



Veronique Mayer  
Phys Ed/  
Education III

"I plan on going to Vancouver [...] and partying in the district where people shoot heroine. I don't really like to shoot heroine, but I'll watch people. Or support friends. I'm a little tired."

"Going to church to confess my sins." [Why is that so impure?] "It'll be my last resort, basically, for salvation. Drowning myself in holy water."

"Smuggle back coral from Hawaii."

"Not much, I'm going to Florida." [You're not going to do impure things in Florida?] "Pandas soccer is going to get pretty intensely impure in Florida."



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KATI KOVACS

## astronowatch

by Kati Kovacs

Guess which astronogirl's birthday it is this weekend? That's right, this one! I've decided to turn 21 again and make merry with some karaoke. Nothing like watching people embarrass themselves to celebrate my dwindling youth.

I have some exciting updates about the University's observatory. Just two days ago, I helped install the telescope in its new home on top of the Fine Arts Building. I'll be helping again today to get the scope in working order for the grand opening of the observatory on 20 February 20. I know the 20th is in the middle of Reading Week for you lucky students, but it's also the date of a total lunar eclipse.

A lunar eclipse happens when the Earth's shadow falls on the moon, turning it a vibrant red colour. This is the last total lunar eclipse visible from Canada for over two years. If that isn't enough temptation, the planet Saturn (the one with the rings, dur!) will be visible as well. So how about before you head out to the bar on Wednesday night, you stop by our new observatory. We'll be open from 7:30-9pm.

For more information (and directions!) go to: <http://www.phys.ualberta.ca/research/astro/observ.php>

*AstronoWatch is a weekly feature that covers the goings-on in the night skies, the galaxy, and sometimes even Kati's personal life.*

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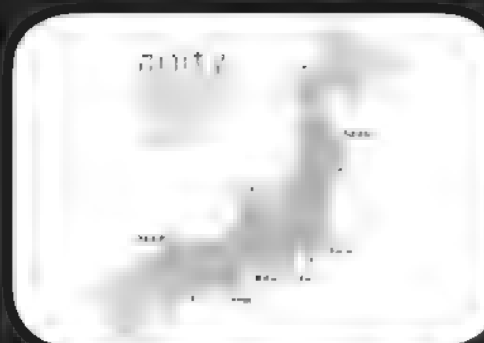
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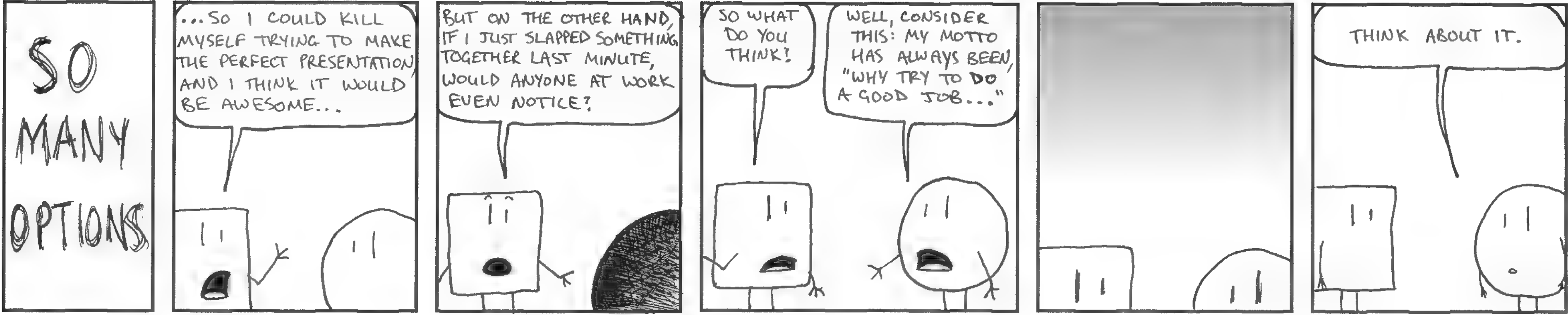
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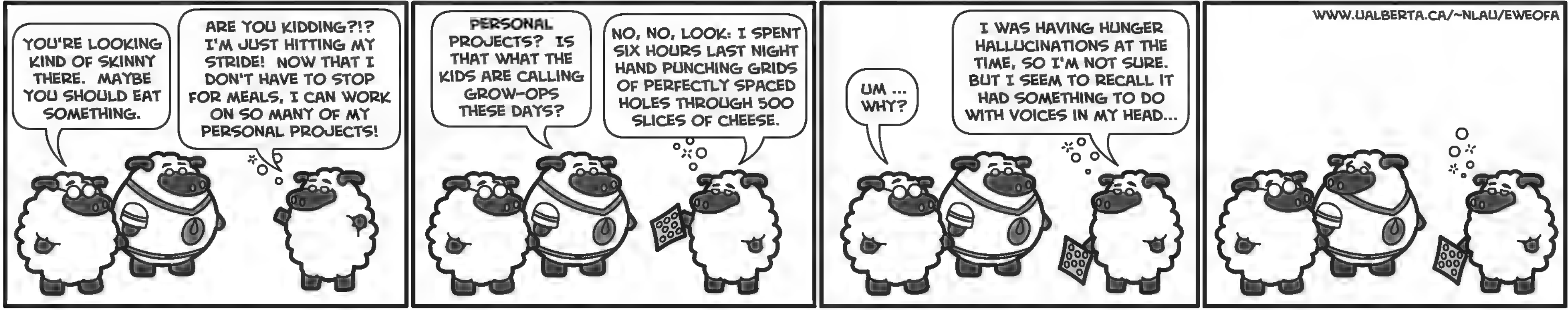
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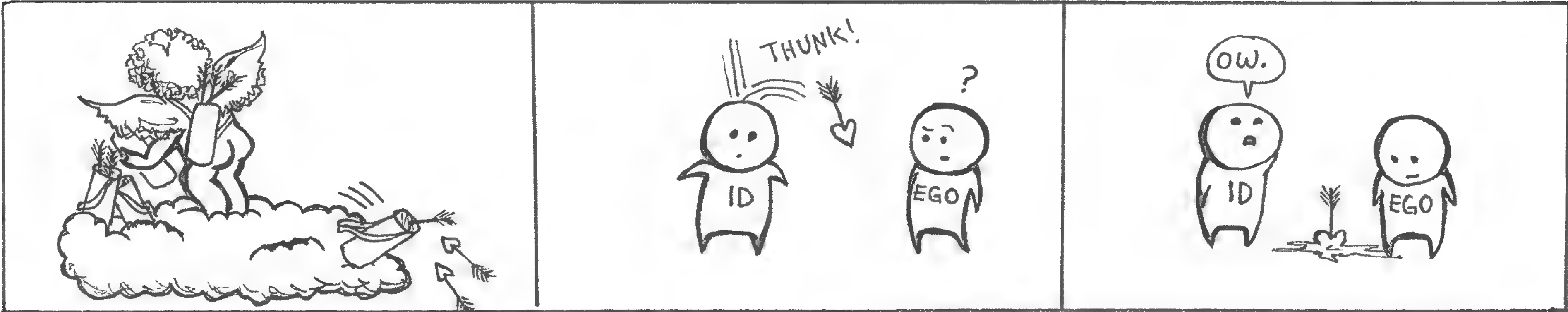
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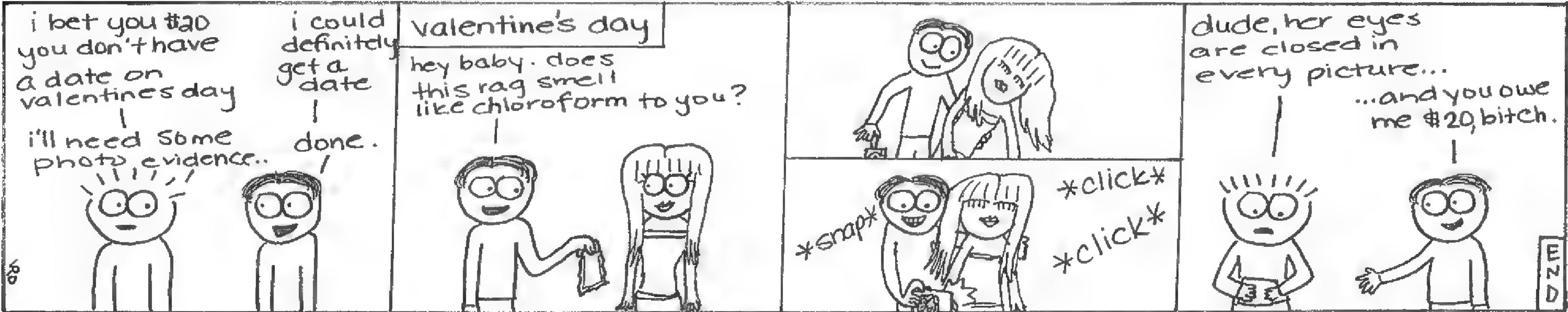
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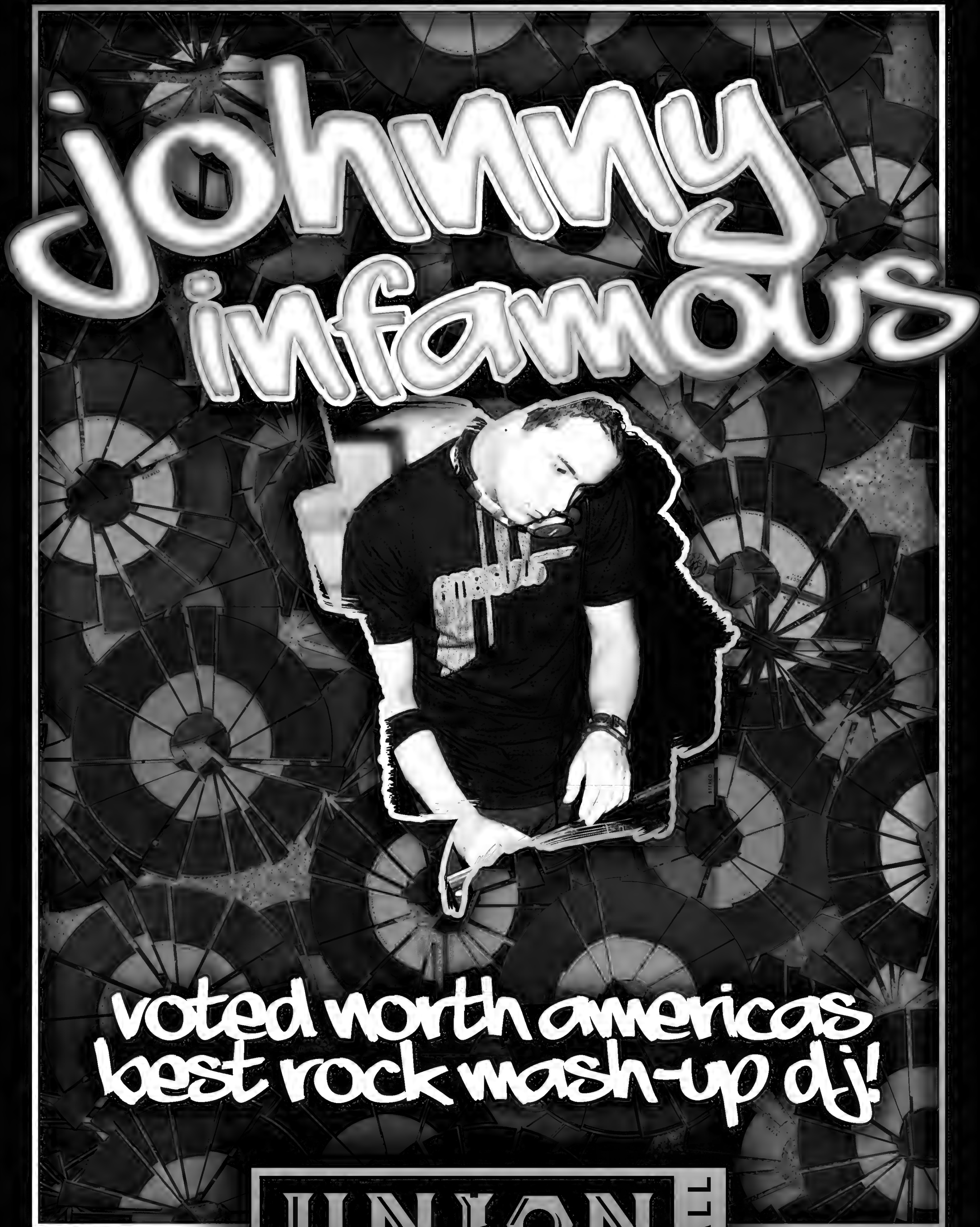
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TARA STIEGLITZ AND CYRIL BALITBIT

**LIVE FREE OR DIE BOARD** Richardson (left) claimed Samuel committed a conflict of interest under SU Bylaw 100.

# Samuel disciplined by DIE board

Hearing held over the production of unauthorized materials by the Students' Union VP (Academic) following a complaint lodged by former SU councillor

RYAN HEISE  
Deputy News Editor

Following a pair of censures from the Executive Committee and Students' Council, Students' Union Vice-President (Academic) Bobby Samuel faced a ruling from the Discipline, Interpretation, and Enforcement (DIE) Board early Monday morning.

DIE Board, the SU's tribunal responsible for dealing with possible violations of the Union's bylaws, heard the case Friday afternoon after Brock Richardson, an Arts councillor in 2006/07, filed a complaint against Samuel. The claim alleged that Samuel violated Bylaw 100, section 18.1 by using SU resources and his position to create and distribute documents that could be misconstrued as pre-campaigning material. Section 18.1 states that "no person shall use a Students' Union position that he/she holds to further personal business interests."

During the hearing, Richardson claimed that "personal business interest" should be interpreted as any "tangible gain," which would include pre-campaigning for a possible presidential race on Samuel's part. However, Samuel maintained that the pamphlet wasn't meant as a means to personal gain.

Ultimately, the DIE Board tribunal found Samuel in violation of section 18.1, stating in its ruling that "the actions taken by Mr Samuel were a use of his position to obtain a non-

trivial monetary gain beyond what a reasonable student would expect from the proper exercise of one's duties."

While Richardson was hoping to see Samuel removed from office, the ruling resulted in a much less severe punishment. DIE Board ruled that the remaining flyers Samuel had produced must be destroyed and that his wages be garnished \$120 to pay for the design time used on the pamphlet. He was also issued a \$250 fine, and will need to get the approval of another member of the Executive before meeting with student groups for the rest of his term in office.

DIE Board also placed an injunction on Samuel against "using the design of the pamphlet, including the slogan and textual contents, or any portion or derivative thereof, for the purpose of any future political campaign."

Following the ruling on Monday, Richardson said that he was pleased Samuel was found in violation of the bylaw.

"After the censure by the Exec and the censure by Council, he was still saying, 'I did nothing wrong in terms of rules; I didn't break any rules.' And this clearly demonstrates that he did break some rules. So I'll take that as a victory."

Richardson said he wasn't surprised with DIE Board's decision not to withdraw Samuel from office, but added that he found it odd that the Board would find Samuel in violation

but allow him to remain in office. He said that because there's no recorded precedent for DIE Board removing a member of the SU from office, he believes that they were hesitant to take such action, even after ruling that he had "grossly abused [his] position and the privileges of that position."

Samuel called the ruling "harsh yet just" after it was handed down on Monday, stating he was ready to move on from the ordeal.

"I honestly can't disagree with it. I screwed up, I messed up, and obviously our processes have come to bite me in the ass, but that's a sign that our processes work."

"I want to close a chapter on this," he added. "I'd like to continue to work to reduce textbook costs, to improve teaching, to do all the things I was elected to do, and I'm hopeful that the Executive Committee, student councillors, and students will all be willing to work with me."

SU President Michael Janz said he thinks "most people just want to move on and do their jobs," and that he didn't think it would come up again in Council.

Richardson said he has no plans to appeal the decision and push for a harsher punishment, noting that the SU's disciplinary system has done its job.

"I think it's good for the organization because if what he did wasn't in violation of a bylaw, then it would mean our bylaws are in a sorry state."

# Postsecondary awareness campaign kicks off as provincial elections loom

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
Senior News Editor

With the provincial election only weeks away, student and faculty representatives gathered Monday in SUB to launch *Imagine Alberta*, an issue-based campaign designed to raise public awareness of higher education.

Jonathan Hill from the Alberta College and Technical Institutes Students Executive Council (ACTISEC) explained that the non-partisan campaign has one core message: to make postsecondary education a main issue in the upcoming 3 March election.

"In Alberta, we face many issues, all of which we believe can be remedied with greater investment in postsecondary education," he said.

Hill listed affordability, accessibility, and quality as serious issues still greatly affecting the postsecondary system in Alberta. A strong postsecondary education system, he said, is

the key to the province staying competitive in the future.

"In order to reach this global pedestal, there are many things that have to happen," Hill stressed.

By putting postsecondary education on "everyone's agenda," he said the provincial government will be more inclined to invest in its citizens as a resource.

"Imagine an Alberta that is setting a global standard for what a knowledge-based economy really is."

John Nicholls, executive director of the Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations (CAFA), said that during the 2004 elections, a similar campaign called *Wise Up* was particularly effective at raising public awareness about postsecondary education issues with voters and politicians.

"*Imagine Alberta* aims to build on that success," he said.

Nicholls further pointed out that proponents of postsecondary

education are "only too well aware" of the competing claims on public attention such as health care, housing, and the environment.

In order to address these issues, he said, the next generation of Albertans have to have the tools that higher education provides. While postsecondary education may not be on everyone's radar at the moment, Nicholls stressed that only an increase investment in postsecondary education will tackle competing problems.

In order to achieve future expansion of the system, Nicholls said more top-level, full-time faculty are needed to address class-size issues, and the backlog of deferred maintenance on the fiscal infrastructure at universities, colleges, and technical institutions also has to be "urgently" addressed.

"We need to ensure that all this is high on the provincial agenda—whatever political party is in power," he said.

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# \$500 million needed to reduce injuries—U of A researcher

JONATHAN TAVES  
News Staff

Injuries caused the death of over 1500 Albertans last year, and now a University of Alberta researcher is advocating for the creation of an endowment to drastically reduce that number.

Dr Louis Francescutti, who also works as an emergency physician at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, began his campaign to make Alberta safer after seeing first-hand the suffering caused by preventable injuries.

"If you look at the 35 000 students we have at the University, the leading cause of death for them is injury, exceeding all other diseases combined," Francescutti said. "Car crashes, drowning, suicide, assault, rape, those are all known as injuries. We have a tendency of referring to these things as accidents. If you keep referring to these things as accidents, you develop this notion that there's not much you can do about it."

Francescutti has made it his mission to convince the public these tragedies aren't accidents, and he believes a provincial fund would go a long way in improving the epidemic.

"We should be the ones to set the example for the rest of the world to follow," he argued. "If we were to put \$500 million in an endowment, that

would generate about \$50-\$60 million a year that we could use to start tackling the problem."

Francescutti believes that aside from extending lives and improving safety, a successful allocation of the endowment would have economic payoffs for the province as well.

"If we could reduce unintentional injuries by 50 per cent, we would free up enough money to pay for the tuition of every post-secondary student in Alberta for three years [of their degree]," he said.

Reduced pressure on the health-care system, he said, "would free up an enormous amount of resources [...] that we could put towards global warming initiatives, figuring how to make the tarsands more environmentally friendly, solving housing issues. It's a ripple effect."

The fund, which would be guided by an international panel of experts, would target areas of risk with public awareness of injury campaigns, better traffic surveillance systems, recreational and occupational injury, and suicide and violence prevention programs, among other strategies, Francescutti explained.

"You've got to bring many disciplines together to try innovative things," he said.

Francescutti credits petroleum companies for identifying injury as



TARASTIEGLITZ

**HEADS UP** Dr Francescutti wants funding put towards raising public awareness of common injury-causing activities.

a major issue and using considerable resources to make the industry safer in recent years. But, he noted, poor safety practices in the most statistically dangerous workplaces—agriculture, forestry, mining, and construction—cause hundreds of injuries a year.

The Workers' Compensation Board reported a significant increase in occupational fatalities over the last year. 154 people were killed on the job in 2007, compared to 124 in 2006.

But Francescutti said the deaths

are only a symptom of a much larger problem: a poor conception of injury in the province.

"If it bleeds, it leads," he said. "If every day on the newspaper's front page it's fires, poisonings, or a building blows up, or some dog mauls a kid, somebody drowns, we think, 'That's life.' Well, it's not life. The first hurdle is you've got to convince people that's not normal."

Popular trends such as cell phone use while driving have convinced

Francescutti that younger Albertans aren't aware of the consequences of injury.

"What's really sad is that these people are previously perfectly healthy, and then they're either perfectly dead or permanently disabled. Cancer, diabetes, heart disease take time to manifest themselves," he said. "This is the last public health epidemic that's before us, and this one is solvable."

"To do nothing would be negligence on a criminal level."

**Dr Samarasekera invites students to join her for lunch and a roundtable discussion on topics of interest to you.**

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Email: [gsa@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa@ualberta.ca)

**NOMINATIONS CLOSE**  
**February 20, 2008**

## GFC COMMITTEES: STUDENTS NEEDED

The terms of office for students serving on **General Faculties Council (GFC)** Standing Committees, Appeal Boards and committees to which GFC elects members will expire on April 30, 2008. Undergraduate and graduate students (as noted) are encouraged to apply now to serve on any of the following committees for terms of office beginning May 1, 2008 and ending April 30, 2009. (Some students currently serving on these committees may be seeking re-election to serve additional terms.)

Committee	Student Vacancies	Meeting Times (monthly)
<b>ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (APC):</b> GFC's senior committee dealing with academic, financial and planning issues.	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate	2:00 pm / 2nd & 4th Wednesdays
<b>ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE (ASC):</b> GFC committee dealing with admissions, academic standing, transfer and examination policies and other related issues.	ONE undergraduate	9:00 am / 3rd Thursday
<b>CAMPUS LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE (CLRC):</b> Reviews Code of Student Behaviour, Code of Applicant Behaviour and Residence Community Standards.	TWO students (undergraduate and/or graduate)	9:30 am / 1st Thursday
<b>COMMITTEE ON THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (CLE):</b> Promotes an optimal learning environment in alignment with guiding documents of the University of Alberta.	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate	2:00 pm / 1st Wednesday
<b>FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (FDC):</b> Recommends on planning and use of facilities, proposed buildings, and parking and transportation facilities.	ONE undergraduate	1:30 pm / 4th Tuesday
<b>UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (UASC):</b> Approves new awards for undergraduate students including selection and eligibility criteria.	TWO undergraduates	2:00 pm / 2nd Tuesday in October, March and June  4th Tuesday in January
<b>UNIVERSITY TEACHING AWARDS COMMITTEE (UTAC):</b> Adjudicates the Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, the William Hardy Alexander Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, the Provost's Award for Early Achievement of Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and the Teaching Unit Award.	TWO undergraduates & ONE graduate	Normally three times a year (October, March and May)
<b>ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE (AAC) / UNIVERSITY APPEAL BOARD (UAB):</b> AAC hears and decides student appeals regarding academic standing. UAB hears and decides student appeals regarding disciplinary decisions of the Discipline Officer and/or Dean as made under the Code of Student Behaviour.	AAC: TWO undergraduates & TWO graduates  UAB: FIVE undergraduates & FIVE graduates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will normally participate in 3 to 4 hearings per year.</li> <li>Hearings are scheduled as needed Monday to Thursday;</li> <li>Hearings normally start at 4:30 or 5:00 PM, and last 3 to 5 hours.</li> </ul> Students should have flexible evening schedules two nights a week (including summer months).
<b>COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS (COSA):</b> The aim of the Council is the betterment of the quality of student life at the University of Alberta. (Open only to current members of GFC.)	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate	Afternoons/normally 3rd Monday (September to March)

Application forms and committee information are available on the University Governance website: <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/secretariat/> or in Room 2-5 University Hall. Applications should be completed and returned to University Governance **by Wednesday, March 5, 2008**. For information regarding committee membership and terms of reference, students are invited to contact: Ms Vanessa Ogilvy, Secretary to the GFC Nominating Committee (NC), at 492-4715, or by e-mail: [vanessa.ogilvy@ualberta.ca](mailto:vanessa.ogilvy@ualberta.ca).

**NOTE:** There is ONE STUDENT VACANCY on the GFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE for an undergraduate student who is a GFC member for the 2008-09 academic year. Expressions of interest for this position should be directed to Mr Garry Bodnar ([garry.bodnar@ualberta.ca](mailto:garry.bodnar@ualberta.ca)), Secretary to the GFC Replenishment Committee, University Governance.



# Former PM Jean Chrétien reflects on his years in office

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
Senior News Editor

Jean Chrétien beamed as he took his seat in a leather armchair in the centre of the Myer Horowitz Theatre last Thursday for the first installment of the University's Prime Ministers Conversation Series.

The former PM received a standing ovation from the sold-out audience and looked relaxed in the informal Q&A setting, which featured former MP and U of A Board of Governor chair Jim Edwards. He stressed that he didn't want to comment on current events, instead fielding questions from Edwards and reminiscing about his 40 years of experience in the public service.

In regards to federalism, he said provincial-federal meetings are often unproductive, as premiers have a temptation to "stick it to the feds" when the cameras are rolling.

But even as he spoke before a crowd of spectators, Chrétien says the tendency to speak to an audience has changed Canadian politics. Over the course of his career, he said that bringing television cameras into the House was one thing he has regrets about.

"The House of Commons was the best debating club in this nation. The real rules are that you're not supposed to have notes there. You're supposed to get up and speak, and it is the test. If you say something stupid, everybody knows. And if you say something smart, they think you're smart," he explained, adding that the old House produced great politicians.

However, once the camera came, Chrétien noted everyone started reading their speeches and checking their hair and tie—something he said was no longer true debating.

"The camera makes you artificial."

When asked about the level of charisma seen in Canada's federal leaders today, Chrétien said that while a politician may not be a "great, funny guy," a good background and a desire to serve still stands for something.

"Politics is not only a science; it's an art. And how to mix the two? Some are successful just with the science, and some are successful just with the arts, but sometimes it is better just to



TARASTIEGLITZ

**PM-ESQUE** Chrétien and Edwards discuss the former leader's political past.

have both," he said.

Since leaving office, Chrétien has written a book and is currently practicing law on international files, drawing on his experiences gained during his time in office—including his work with China.

He acknowledged that human rights were always a touchy issue when dealing with Canada-China relations, but said he never shied away from discussing them, adding that he was the first leader from the Western world to make a speech on human rights in China, at the University of Beijing.

However, he also stressed that China has its own unique problems to deal with, and that in terms of promoting democracy, they aren't the only undemocratic nation that Canada has had dealings with.

"Some do business in Saudi Arabia,"

he said. "It's not a great democracy."

Chrétien also said that he often found himself explaining what it means to be a liberal in Canada while travelling abroad.

"When the right says of you [that] you are a left-winger, and when the left says of you you're a right-winger—you're a damn good Chrétien Liberal."

*In commemoration of the U of A's 100<sup>th</sup> year, the University has invited the five living former Canadian prime ministers and current PM Stephen Harper to take part in a series of conversations with the Honourable Jim Edwards on the theme "Advancing Canada—Changing the World," concluding the series next winter with the Honourable Stephen Harper. The next installment in the series will take place on Wednesday, 12 March with former Joe Clark.*

## NEWS BRIEF

### U OF A'S ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS TOP IN CANADA

The University of Alberta's Engineers Without Borders (EWB) has been named the top chapter of 2008 at the organization's annual general meeting held last month in Montreal.

Jamaal Montasser, EWB's U of A chapter president, explained the selection process as a combination of peer review and an assessment by a selection committee. He spoke of the extensive criteria requiring the chapter's demonstration of community outreach, successful program implementation, and high quantity and quality of programs available to its members.

According to Montasser and Jessica Virostek, a senior returning member, diversity is integral to EWB's strength and innovation. Virostek highlighted the misconception that Engineers Without Borders is an exclusive group, while in reality its members hail from outside the Engineering Faculty.

"One of our executives is a political science major," Virostek said.

Montasser further explained that

the club had greatly increased its community outreach, and that exemplifying the chapter's proliferation was its ability to reach 1400 students within the first three months of the academic year—eclipsing the total number reached in the entire year prior.

"We give one-hour workshops in high schools about water, energy, and what can be done as Canadians to make social change," Montasser said.

Shedding light on other EWB community outreach programs, Virostek detailed a new initiative called "Fair-Trade Fridays" launched last week. As part of this program, the EWB is giving away free fair-trade coffee every Friday along with information pamphlets as an initiative to educate and provide alternatives to students. They plan to incorporate more fair-trade products in the future.

"The program is basically about awareness—getting people to realize that they have feasible options and a choice in the source of their products," she said.

EWB has 4-12 month internship programs abroad made available to its members. Both Montasser and Virostek have completed junior internship programs with the Ghanaian Ministry of

Food and Agriculture, during which they used their skills to raise technological capacity both in the offices and in the fields they work in. Virostek explained that in order to maintain the success of the internship programs abroad, EWB operates on a philosophy of modesty: that they must first learn in order to successfully implement change.

"We learn from our local partners and then use their expertise to appropriately introduce new technologies and techniques," Virostek said.

She believes that this way of working fosters the healthy and ongoing relationships between EWB and its partners necessary to ensure the quality and quantity of the chapter's programs.

Also on the agenda of EWB is university "curriculum-enhancement." Montasser explained the on going effort to get faculty members to integrate a global aspect into the instructors' engineering classes.

"The program is meant to transcend absolute focus on the functional aspects of technology, and rather to explore the social, economic, and political impacts as well."

—Yaw Amoako-Tuffour, News Writer



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The Gateway Student Journalism Society Board of Directors meets approximately once per month and is responsible for the overall direction of the society, but not for any element of the editorial content of the Gateway.

**Applications should be sent to Adam Gaumont,  
the Gateway Editor-in-Chief, at  
eic@gateway.ualberta.ca on or before February 29.**

For more information, please contact the  
Chair of the Board of Directors at [gsjs@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:gsjs@gateway.ualberta.ca)  
or visit <http://www.gateway.ualberta.ca/gsj/s/>

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# Med student to spend Reading Week volunteering in Ecuador

SCOTT FENWICK  
News Staff

Flying south for Reading Week may be high on the minds of many students braving the freezing weather while on their way to class, but for Andy Wensel, a balmy climate isn't the reason for her upcoming trip across the equator.

For the next week, Wensel will be in Ecuador as a translator, helping orthopedic surgeons perform much-needed surgery on those that can't afford it.

Now in her second year of medicine at the University of Alberta, Wensel is making her fourth visit to the South American country as a volunteer translator for the Edmonton-based Canadian Association of Medical Teams Abroad (CAMTA), where she acts as the organization's main link to its patients.

"You get to know people on a totally different level," she says. "[When] travelling normally, you don't meet people in this way. You don't get such insight into their lives."

Wensel helps CAMTA perform procedures that seem routine by Canadian standards. However, what CAMTA does in Ecuador is far from routine—for the two weeks they're in Quito, Ecuador's capital, she and her peers perform surgery for free.

Many patients are too poor to pay for operations, meaning that they would otherwise suffer without. Wensel says that this has given her a close-up look at how unequal health care can be in poor countries. In fact, Wensel's team is set up in a hospital located in one of the poorest parts of Quito.

"You're at least aware of the discrepancy, but not letting the guilt overcome you, that was a hard thing to get past because the inequality is immense."

To illustrate the disparity between Canada and Ecuador, Wensel uses the procedure of fixing club foot on children, a birth defect where their feet are pointed down and inward. Fixing it using casting therapy is a routine procedure in Canada—but money keeps many Ecuadorians from getting

it done.

"[In Canada], we fix it at birth. But there, it gets to the point where they need significant surgery because they've grown with it and haven't had it treated before," she says, explaining that it often means cutting ligaments to move the feet to their proper position.

Still, Wensel explains, many of her patients don't let their conditions keep them from living their lives.

"What struck me most was how happy these people are despite their circumstances and how loving and affectionate they are," she says.

The fact that the patients wouldn't get looked after otherwise isn't lost on them either, she says. Every year, when the CAMTA team first arrives in the hospital, there are hundreds of people happily awaiting their arrival and giving them a royal welcome.

"The first time I went [to the clinic], they were clapping when we walked in," she explains. "Oh my God, it was ridiculous. They put you on such a pedestal, and it feels



JUNETTE HUYNH

**DEDICATED DOC** Wensel discusses her experiences helping the poor in Quito.

so undeserving. You don't feel like you're worthy of this."

But the joy can be short-lived. The day after the CAMTA team arrives at the clinic, all candidates for surgery are interviewed. Both because of time constraints and a lack of proper equipment, some people are always turned

down—and Wensel is often the person that has to break the news.

"It's really emotional, [and] there's a lot of tears," Wensel says. "I haven't really figured out the right technique without being affected emotionally. That's the reality—you can only do so much."

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# Canada’s International Polar Year executive director stresses the importance of building a global ‘legacy’ of arctic research

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
Senior News Editor

Last year, the launch of the International Polar Year (IPY) drew global media attention, with climate change making headlines daily. However, while the initial limelight on IPY may have faded, Dr David Hik stresses that its significance continues to grow.

Hik, the executive director of the Canadian IPY Secretariat (2007/08), gave a talk last Friday in the Biological Sciences Building on “a multidimensional analysis of the International Polar Year and some thoughts about the future of Arctic research.”

**“No country independently can understand the changes in the polar region”**

**DAVID HIK**  
CANADIAN IPY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“There was a real burst of activity around the launch about a year ago, but since then, largely, people have just gone on with their programs,” Hik explained, adding that the two-year investigation is only halfway through and that Canadians should understand how these years work to establish a legacy.

He noted that Canadians can no longer only think of the border we share with the United States as our only salient frontier.

“If you look at a map of the world and turn it so that the north pole is at the middle, you see our neighbourhood in Canada from a perspective

that we sometimes forget,” he said, continuing that as climate change continues to alter the geography of the polar region, any sense of isolation that exists between Canada and Russia will soon melt away.

“No country independently can understand the changes in the polar region,” he said, noting that IPY is the largest international program of coordinated research, involving more than 60 countries and about 50 000 researchers.

Hik also stressed the fact that about 60 per cent of global IPY projects involve Canadian participants, and that polar years are the “granddaddy” of international scientific collaboration, with the first polar year taking place in 1882/83. Since then, he said, with every new internationally coordinated effort, new technologies are developed, and a new generation of scientists is trained.

According to Hik, climate change is a significant issue that needs to be dealt with on an international level. He added that even though the several degrees of warming that are projected to occur, may not seem like a lot, in fact it’s more than is generally seen in several millennia.

“There doesn’t really seem to be any trajectory other than increased warming,” he said. “The warmest years are in the last decade, and the projections [...] there’s some uncertainty, but they all suggest that things will continue to get warmer.”

The challenge, he said, was to use IPY as a building block for future research and collaboration. Hik explained that IPY has drawn about \$1 billion in new funding internationally to support investigation over the next few years, but he warned that more thought needs to be put into what will happen when that funding is exhausted.



LAURENSTIEGLITZ

**ARCTIC AMBITION** David hik wants to make sure that Canadian research leaves its mark on the northern reaches of the world.

“One objective of polar years is to leave a legacy. They can be a pulsive activity, but really, they are building blocks for then determining what will drive the agenda for the next decades,” he said, adding that in Canada, there isn’t any national organization responsible for polar sciences.

“Even within the federal government, there are 21 different departments and agencies that are responsible for some aspect of delivery of northern science,” he said. “It’s fragmented across the whole system, and it’s uncoordinated, and it’s a bit of a mess.”

Hik said that if the U of A hadn’t stepped up to host the Secretariat for IPY in Canada, he’s not sure the current coordination effort would have been possible. But he stressed that universities aren’t set up to run large-scale scientific “observation networks.”

“That’s a responsibility of government, and government has done a pretty poor job of that,” he said. “Previous prime ministers have asked what’s our place in the world, and I think you just need to look at a map and realize that there are some priorities associated with our geography.”

What’s needed now, according to Hik, is to harness the efforts, resources, and momentum of IPY to ensure its impact is substantive and long-lasting so that the numerous projects it’s created don’t expire at the end of IPY.

“In a couple years, when funding runs out, these efforts cannot be orphaned,” he said. However, he noted that no government alone can fund the needed arctic research projects, because without international engagement, there will be a huge gap in the data that becomes available. For example, he noted that without Russia’s collaboration, an enormous part of the arctic becomes a black hole.

Hik noted that it’s always “much more comfortable” to do things the same way that they’ve always been done in the past, but added that the best way to achieve global engagement in polar research is to be forceful and vocal.

“In the context of IPY legacies, we need to think about what we realistically can achieve but also not be afraid to push the boundaries,” he said. “It just might be a good idea to think a little differently about how to accomplish what we need to do in the long term by thinking outside the box.”

## CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Cody Civiero

### CERTAINLY NOT ALL AGED A NIGHTS

On 30 January at 1:30am, a Campus Security peace officer observed a suspicious vehicle driving through campus at high speed. The vehicle was stopped for numerous traffic violations. Both the driver and the passenger were well known to Campus Security and the EPS and had criminal records that included trafficking drugs. The vehicle, which was from out of province, wasn’t registered or insured. As well, both the driver and the passenger had several warrants for their arrest. The occupants

were arrested, and the vehicle was to be towed. However, while the tow truck was hooking up the vehicle, a CSS officer observed a large bag stuffed inside the vehicle’s steering column. It turned out that the bag was filled with narcotics. The driver and the passenger were turned over to the EPS and charged with drug trafficking, as well as numerous traffic offences.

### BYE BYE BAG BLUES

At 5:20pm on 31 January, CSS received a report of a stolen backpack from SUB. The student had been sitting in the food court area with her bag behind her. An unidentified male came up behind her, covered the backpack with his jacket, and then proceeded to walk away with the bag, which included a laptop. The male was dressed in dark clothing with a greenish jacket and was carrying his

own backpack. Anyone who sees someone with two backpacks is asked to hold them for questioning.

### ONE-ALARM FIRE

At 12:20am on 2 February, Campus 5-0 responded to a fire alarm in Mackenzie Hall. It appears that persons unknown lit some paper on fire in a common area and then pulled the fire alarm. Damage to the facility was minimal, as the fire had been quickly extinguished. If Floor Coordinators were appointed and not elected, this probably would have never happened.

### TILL WE MEET AGAIN, YOUTUBE SUPERSTAR

On 3 February at 8:45am, a resident in HUB Mall contacted Campus Security to report that a break-in had just occurred in a shop in HUB. According to the

resident, a male had gained access to the locked establishment and proceeded to rummage through the till and steal food. The male also attempted to hide when someone walked past the shop. The male left the area, but not before being captured on a cell phone video. The male is described as dark, in his early 20s, wearing all dark clothing, and with short hair. A large amount of money was taken from the till, and the Edmonton Police Services is investigating.

### I BELIEVE YOU HAVE MY STAPLER

On 29 January at 6:50pm, CSS received a report of an unaffiliated male entering the office of a female staff member in St Joseph’s College. The male entered the office, closed the door, and tried to walk behind the staff member’s desk. The staff member asked him to leave and

told the male she was calling Campus Security. The male then fled the area on a bus. The male later called CSS concerned about his reputation, at which time he was advised not to return.

### CALLER ID

At 7:30pm on 7 February, a staff member in Phys Ed contacted CSS to report the theft of a laptop and cell phone from his office in the Van Vliet Centre. Later that night, the staff member was able to contact his cell phone provider, who identified several telephone numbers his cell phone was used to contact. The staff member then contacted one of the numbers and convinced the person on the other end to help turn in his property to EPS. The property was recovered by EPS, who are now investigating the theft further.



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## Real-life trolling is a waste of time

ON THIS WINTERY VALENTINE'S DAY, I'D LIKE to pass up discussing my own crippling loneliness in favour of the recent actions of a group who share my heart's frozen ailment—the Internet nerd hive known as Anonymous. They're usually content to swarm amongst the online “chan” forums, trading odd pornography and homemade Internet memes for chuckles. But recently, the group tried to accomplish something far greater than their collective sex lives ever will: a worldwide protest of the Church of Scientology.

“Anon” was spurred into action by Scientology's strict control of information regarding the Church and its members, which is akin to throwing a rock at a bee hive in this age of information-sharing. Their increasing assaults on Scientology culminated last Sunday with a worldwide protest, where, depending on the city, dozens or hundreds of mask-wearing teens descended upon the Church's offices with signs and music, shouting their favourite Internet jokes all the while.

And that's the problem: it's impossible to take Anonymous seriously as protesters when they sing Rick Astley's “Never Gonna Give You Up.” Likewise, rewording parts of the *Fresh Prince of Bel-Air* theme to poke fun at Scientology does not a stirring protest chant make. It just becomes the Mardi Gras of the Internet-savvy: everyone's in costume, taking to the streets and having a grand ol' time, but failing to make a dent in the deeper issues that they were trying to address.

The nature of Anonymous itself also makes it difficult for any of their actions to snowball into a genuine strike against Scientology. After Sunday, the forums were split as to whether the protest had been a huge success or a terrible failure. Without some kind of command or organization outside of mob rule to guide the group, everyone's expectations for the protests varied immensely, which caused polarized internal squabbling that has the group doing barrelrolls.

That's a shame, because when they aren't just goofing off, Anonymous do manage to raise some serious and often ignored points. Scientology is bizarre (as the recently leaked Tom Cruise video has shown), isolates members from their families, and is quick to attack and silence anyone who raises concerns as to their beliefs or actions. Protest signs like “I'm too poor to worship Scientology” point out the church's potentially conniving intentions, and, while there were serious moments to the protests, the only things that the get put on YouTube for the world to see are the silly ones, which makes the whole thing feel like a big in-joke—one that's just as happy not actually making a difference as it would be bringing Scientology to its knees.

As a result, despite protests in a number of population centres worldwide and ample news coverage, Anonymous's protest against the Church of Scientology was nothing but an epic fail.

PAUL BLINOV  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

## Spielberg pulls out

THE CAMPAIGN TO GET CHINA TO END THEIR tacit support of the Sudanese government's actions in Darfur claimed a victory on Tuesday, when Steven Spielberg resigned his position as creative director of the Beijing Olympics in protest. China imports billions of dollars worth of oil—often in exchange for weapons—from Sudan. Most protesters believe that an embargo from China would make the Sudanese government break down and stop killing people.

Unfortunately for Darfur, China isn't going to do shit. For the Chinese government, taking a position against the human rights abuses in Sudan would set a dangerous precedent in favour of human rights. It really is too much to ask that they attempt to stop a genocide in Africa. If China were to do that, it would just be a matter of time before people will be bugging them to stop executing people for tax fraud or to create an independent judiciary.

ROBIN COLLUM  
Sports Editor

## Four Men and a Bobby



CONAL PIERCE

## LETTERS

### Things getting better for Listerites due to protest

I'm writing to say how proud I am of the residents of my former home for staging a successful protest against the Residence Services decision to eliminate FC elections (re: “Proposed Lister Hall changes curbed by protest,” 7 February).

As a former FC myself (10 Henday 05/06), I know how important this process is to the student body and the democratic traditions of Lister. My kudos also go to University Vice President (Facilities and Operations) Don Hickey (and whoever else was directly involved) for listening to the students and repealing the order—which seems unnecessary due to the fact that they screen the election candidates anyways.

It seems they were citing the rise in offences as a motive for taking away elections. Compared to the time when my dad lived in Henday in the '70s, they have it quite a bit easier. For example, one entrepreneurial student stole a bathtub, took it to the roof, filled it with ice and beer, and then threw it off when finished. He was evicted after performing the feat a second time.

I hope that this instance leads to a more open mind on the part of Residence Services—they're lucky the ballot box doesn't determine their employment.

Again, well done Listerites!

DEVIN FROBB  
Pharmacology V

### Bobby loses day-planner, spurns student group

Bobby Samuel should be ashamed of himself (re: “Samuel censured by Exec, Council over unauthorized document,” 7 February).

Near the end of January, Mr Samuel requested to attend a meeting of the Undergraduate Association of Computing Science (UACS) executive council to “give [us] an idea of the academic portfolio.” We accepted his request on the assumption that it was SU business, an assumption that later turned out to be incorrect. On 3 February, he confirmed that he would indeed meet with us—a full five days after he was censured by the Students' Union Executive Council. We were unaware of this censure, and looked forward to his visit; however, he never gave any further response.

Flash-forward to 11 February—the day on which Mr Samuel was scheduled to meet with us. We waited for half an hour, but he never showed up.

So, shame on you, Bobby Samuel. UACS expected a certain amount of accountability from a Vice-President of the Students' Union. You dumped us, Bobby, and hell hath no wrath like a departmental association spurned. There are plenty of SU executives in the sea, Bobby. We'll move on to bigger and better things.

I hear Michael Janz is single. Maybe he'll make a presentation to us on legitimate pretenses, and we'll be the ones laughing.

LUCAS WAGNER  
Computing Sciences I

### Cars the real road danger

Thank you, Brian, for writing the article about what are usually called accidents and what you term vehicular manslaughter, and thanks to the Gateway for printing it (re: “Hitting a pedestrian is no accident, so the law shouldn't treat it as such,” 7 February).

Like you, I'm tired of cyclists and pedestrians being told that being run down is their own fault, even when abiding the laws. I've read and thought about the idea that motor vehicles should be sold with stickers covering two thirds of their surface saying “driving kills.”

Or, since some people like to equate bicycle helmets with accident prevention, there is the idea that cars could be required to wear giant helmets, preventing them from being driven around—the streets would become much safer.

A change of discourse around “accidents,” calling the crime a crime and treating it as such, would be a good start.

ESTHERANNA STÄUBLE  
Via email

### Pamphlets a waste of University's green & gold

I recently received the U of A's neatly packaged centenary calendar of events in my staff mailbox. This glossy, colourful collection of archival photos and current research, along with a list of events taking place in the coming year, was delivered in a plastic case similar to

a CD package.

Am I to believe that the University is increasing tuition and residence fees and radically underfunding certain departments and faculties, yet they somehow have the financial resources to publish endless promotional materials and redesign university publications with a “100 Years!” logo that looks, well, embarrassingly amateur?

What did this promotional material cost in terms of both dollars and the number of trees destroyed? Who was paid to produce these image makeovers and celebratory materials? How do these enhance our students' experience (remember, that's why we're here)? Meanwhile, fees are on the increase, and some doctoral students in Arts, for example, have teaching loads of four courses in order to pay the bills—including their education.

Joining the ranks of the world's best universities indeed.

DANIEL MORLEY JOHNSON  
PhD candidate

### Letter from the present

Reading my 1979 letter reprinted last week in the Gateway reminded me of looking at my picture in my high school yearbook (re: “Letters from the archives,” 5 February).

While it's even more obvious today that responsible sexual behaviour is an important moral issue, the way I expressed myself nearly 30 years ago seems as goofy to me now as my haircut in grade 10.

PLEASE SEE LETTERS ♦ PAGE 9



# Losing your V-card no big deal



RAMIN  
OSTAD

“What does change, however, is your level of confidence. Now that you’ve done the deed that you were probably sweating about since you were 13 and realized that that you can do more with your diddly than pee standing up and play the slap flute, the weight and fear of it are gone.”

Two years ago, in the Gateway’s Sex Issue, I wrote an article admitting to being a 20-year-old virgin. At the time, I felt like there were a lot of misconceptions regarding those who chose to abstain from doing the nasty—choice being key here—and that there were serious benefits to waiting until it’s the right time. Well, now that I’m 22 and my V-card’s been punched, I’ve realized something very important: all of you virgins out there are serious losers.

Ok, admittedly, that’s a blatant lie—though I have learned quite a lot about sex now that I’ve been, shall we say, liberated from my shell. But while I haven’t yet mastered the many intricacies of the act itself—and frankly, who has?—many of us come to realize two very important things: there’s far more to sex than just sex, and it’s only once you’ve done it that you realize just how unimportant the whole thing is.

What I mean by that last part is that many virgins have this idea that

getting their firsts will be a life-altering experience, which drives some to obsess about it until they come to fear the act entirely. Well, they’re half-right—having sex definitely changes your perspective, but only in that it makes you realize just how little losing your virginity changes anything.

I mean, really, what changes? Your genitals don’t explode, and you don’t suddenly become a casanova. What does change, however, is your level of confidence. Now that you’ve done the deed that you were probably sweating about since you were 13 and realized that that you can do more with your diddly than pee standing up and play the slap flute, the weight and fear of it are gone. It may sound hypocritical that I’m making virginity sound like a burden, but sometimes it doesn’t help.

The other realization is that there’s a lot more to sex than just the physical nature of it. In the aforementioned pro-virginity article, I talked about the inherent vulnerability involved

with sex, and that, ideally, your first time should be with someone you trust. As usual, I was right—but that rule can also be extended to every other time you have sex. I’m not saying it has to be someone you’re in an intimate relationship with, but it should be someone you’ve gotten to know fairly well. Why? Well, other than the usual suspects—STIs, pregnancy, not remembering their name in the morning—there’s the fact that communication is the most important part of sex—besides the condom, that is, let’s not get stupid.

That’s right, I just said talking is the most important part of sex. I’m not talking about a guy saying something like, “I want to fill your hoo-ha with goof juice,” if that happens, ladies, run like the fucking wind. For the most part, it’s very rare that two people are immediately sexually compatible, so it requires a little time, patience, and practice to make it all come together—ideally that’ll happen frequently.

# Dating older gentlemen no big deal



MEAGAN  
CLEAVELEY

makes you happy” and keep their judgments to themselves; those in the latter group erupt into a chorus of “Dude, that’s gross,” and voice all sorts of reasons as to why I shouldn’t be with my chosen partner—including, but not limited to, the infamous half-plus-seven rule.

**If I were dating a woman, none of my friends would dare tell me it was gross, nor would they openly judge me for dating someone who is of a different gender.**

When it comes to relationships and dating, I like to describe myself as “chronically single.” Generally, I’d rather have a quick fling than a date, so I was a little hesitant at first to start seeing, on a regular basis, a man that I was genuinely interested in.

Though we haven’t been dating long, it’s going well—he’s smart, cute, interesting, and funny. When we spend time together, I genuinely enjoy myself, and he makes me happy, so when I told my friends about the new man in my life, I expected them to be happy for me. Their reactions, however, were much different than what I had expected.

At this point I should probably add that this man is significantly older than me—not quite twice-my-age older, but definitely parents-wouldn’t-approve older. But apparently, my friends don’t approve. Their responses to the guy I’m seeing fall into one of two categories: some are confused, and perhaps a little taken aback, but will still say “whatever

for dating someone who is of a different ethnicity. There was a time when such relationships were not only judged but were actually legislated against; however, nowadays they’re accepted by our generation. There’s no reason to assume that any relationship between consenting adults is going to be predatory, abusive, or exploitative.

It’s unfortunate that though we’ve come so far in regards to what’s considered acceptable in terms of relationships and romantic liaisons, those in which there are considerable age differences continue to be stigmatized. Just because it’s different than yours doesn’t mean it’s any less acceptable or valid. The only people that truly know what’s going on in a relationship are those who are in it, and as such, they’re the only people qualified to judge it.

I’ve been in similar situations in the past: when I was 14, I dated an 18-year-old; at 18, I was dating a 26-year-old; and now, dating someone 15 years my senior, I’ve been bombarded with people spouting the age difference as the reason why I shouldn’t be with these men and “daddy issues” as the reason why I am with them—which is both absurd and infuriating. If I want to see an older man who has a receding hairline, that’s my business. And if things don’t last with this guy, there are plenty of profs around campus who fit that description.

**LETTERS ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8**

It puzzled me that the Gateway would consider my awkward defense of traditional sexual morality as either historically significant or hilarious until I realized with dismay that the letter appeared just as physicians were first noticing a mysterious illness killing gay men in the US.

Did I really criticize an ad for condoms just as the AIDS pandemic was starting to raise its ugly head? It’s humbling that I was, for however brief a period, so firmly on the wrong side of history. Ironically, since then I’ve been a strong advocate of

birth control, comprehensive sexual education, and rights for sexual minorities.

My first response to seeing that letter was embarrassment. The second was hope—my thinking has changed in many ways since 1979, so perhaps the boxes into which we slot ourselves and others aren’t as rigid as we often assume.

**ROSS SMILLIE**  
Alumnus

Letters to the editor should be sent to [letters@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:letters@gateway.ualberta.ca) (no

attachments, please).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author’s name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication.

Also, thank you for proving my theory that rocks are both boring and dumb.

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